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Story on PAGE A2

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LAOAGAIR/ A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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WANNA/ A19

YAAAK! BAKA KUKO LANG NI PRINCE CHARLES YAN!

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Monday, November 18, 2002 ★★ 86 pages / 7 sections / vol. 17 / no. 343 P15
website: www.inq7.net

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Consensus reached Friday, says press secretary

By Carlito Pablo

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Boncodin and Public Works Secre-

MOST/ A18

Naia 3 deal, PEA scandal crucial tests for President

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

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This means that these bright aspects of her administration's record are insufficient to offset concerns over the burgeoning budget deficit, weak direction and leadership in the area of reforms on governance and on economic measures that can shake the government from its lethargy.

The good news is that presidential advisers recognize the falling popularity and confidence in her administration. Some are, indeed, alarmed over it; and the Palace is now in the midst of an agonizing search for a formula that would rescue her from the slide.

This search is at the bottom of reports of a Cabinet revamp to project a renewal and revitalization of the administration, and statements from Malacañang that the President will announce at the end of the month a major policy initiative that hopefully will shake the administration from its torpor.

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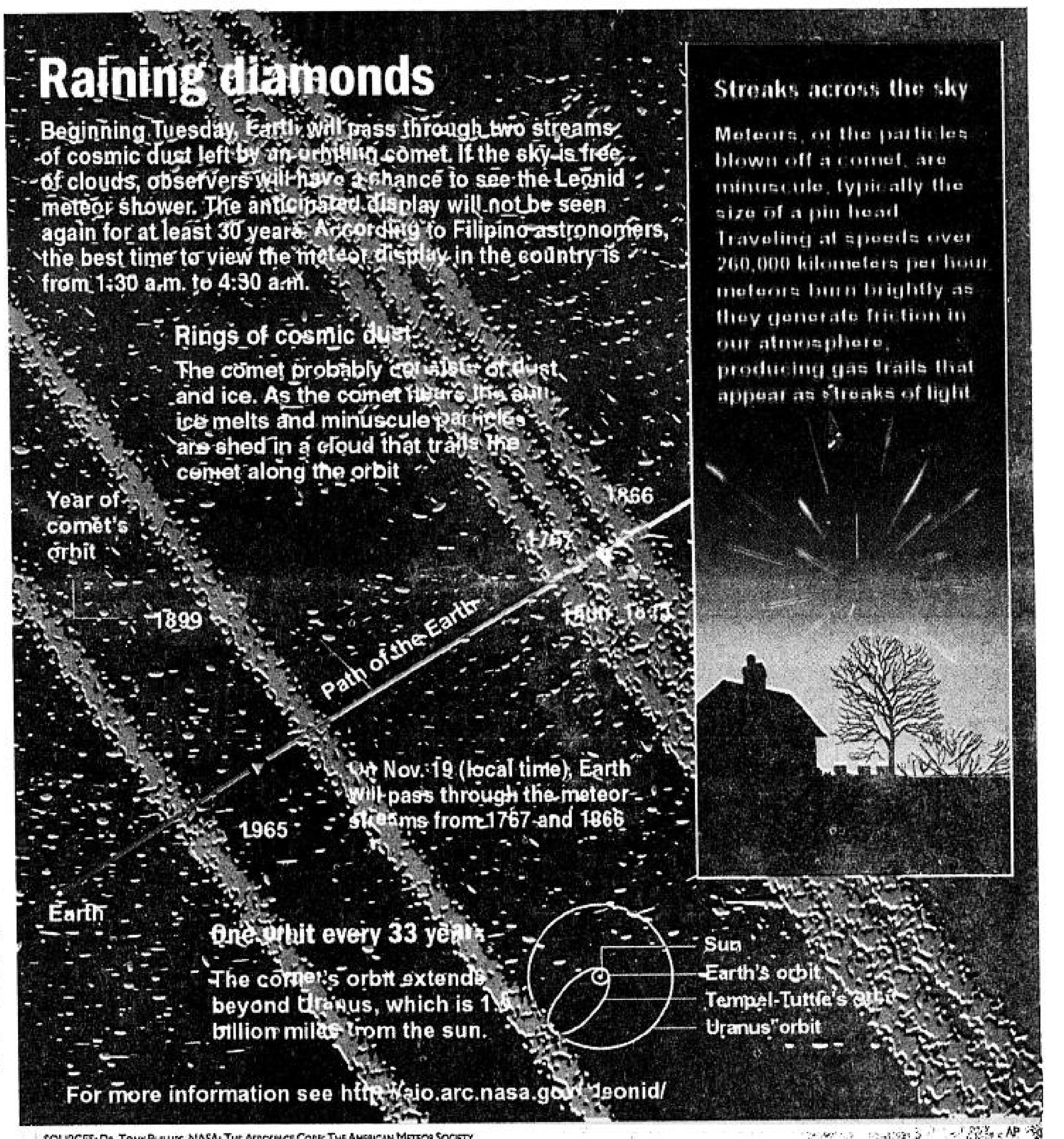
NAIA 3 DEAL/ A18



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SOURCES: DR. TONY PHILLIPS, NASA; THE AEROSPACE CORP; THE AMERICAN METEOR SOCIETY

AP

'Diligin Mo ang Uhaw na Lupa' song fails to lift Imelda's spirits

By Donna S. Cueto

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DILIGIN/ A6

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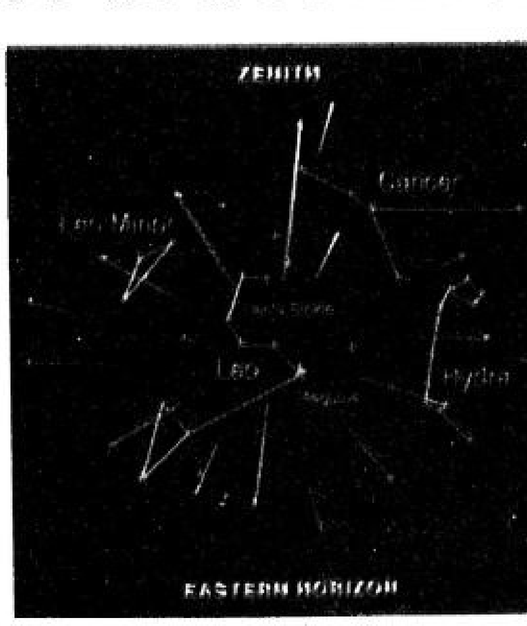

LOOK east and make a wish.

INQUIRER GRAPHIC: E. SAMBO

PROFESSIONAL and amateur astronomers are praying for a clear night sky early Tuesday. It may be their last chance to see a spectacular Leonid meteor shower, which will make its next appearance in the night sky in 2033.

Despite a full moon, scientists are looking forward to one of the best meteor storms in decades, in which as many as 2,000 to 5,000 tiny meteors per hour become visible in some places as shooting stars as they burn up in the atmosphere in brilliant streaks of light.

Apart from the International Space Station, the best place to watch the celestial show will be in western Africa and the US East Coast, but the view in the Philippines won't be that bad, according to James Kevin Ty, president of the Philippine Astronomical Society.

Ty said the best time to watch the Leonids in the Philippines would be at 1:30 a.m. to 4:30 a.m. on Nov. 19, when sky watchers might catch two shooting stars every second.

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Most of the particles are smaller than a grain of rice but they enter the atmosphere at 72 km per second

LAST/ A18

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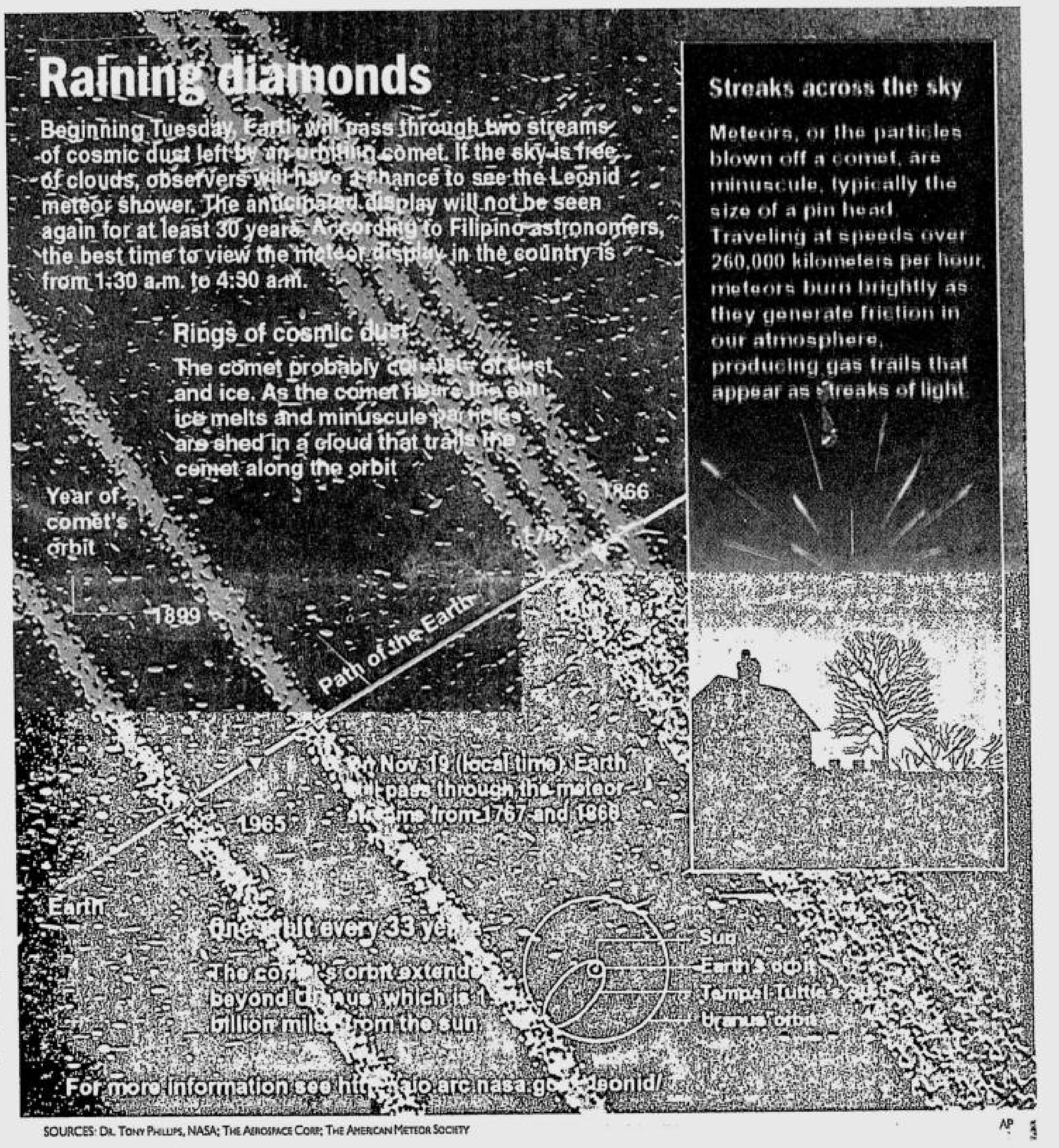

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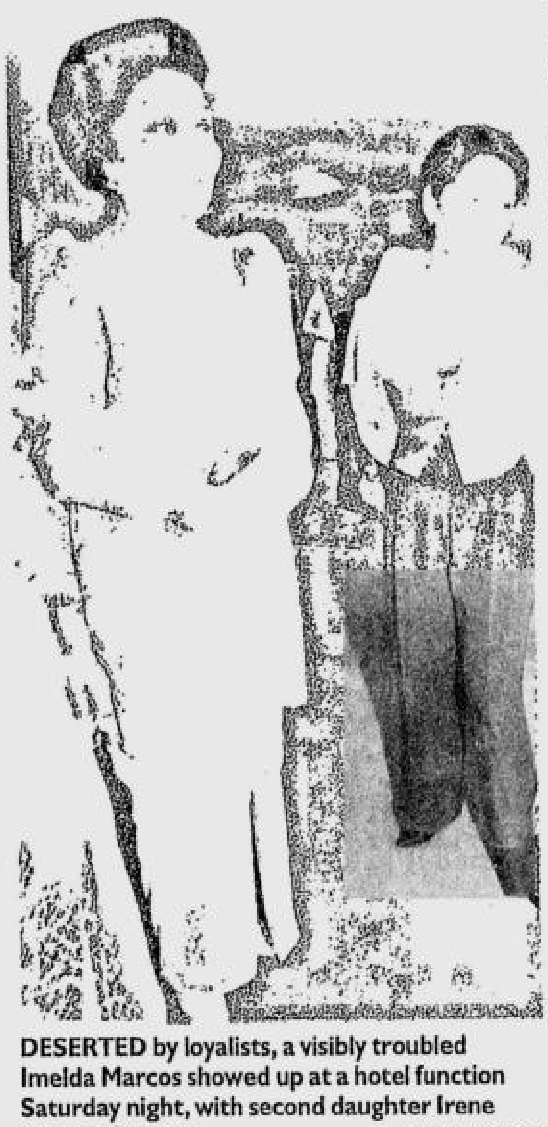

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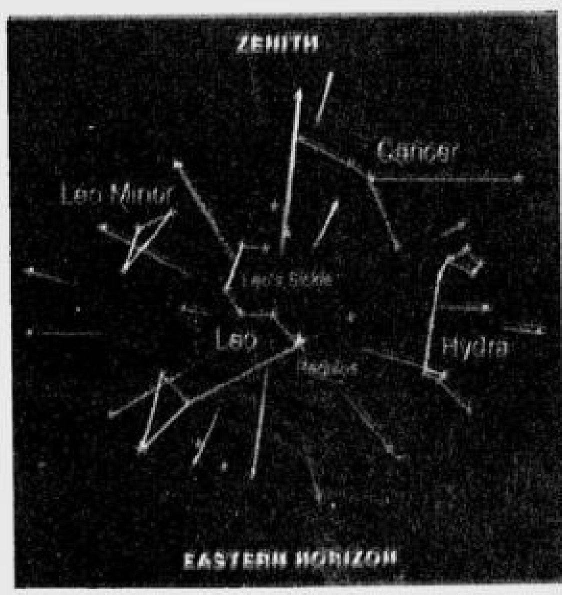

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TIPS/A18

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon, Eastern Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/11/18/02

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

4 sisters tied, hacked, burned to death

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau
and Martin P. Marfil

BACOLOD CITY—Four sisters aged 6 to 16 were tied up in their nipa hut and burned to death in the remote village of Baclao, Cauayan, Negros Occidental at around 11 p.m. on Wednesday.

The victims were identified as Lyzel, 16; Aireen, 11; Jennifer, 9, and Rachel, 6, all surnamed Roldan. The Agence France Presse reported that the sisters were hacked to death with a machete before their house was set on fire.

The suspected perpetrator, Saturnino Labanes Jr., 24, a neighbor, allegedly raped Lyzel before tying up the siblings and burning their home, according to Senior Supt. Vicente Ponteras, Negros Occidental police director.

Inconsolable

Labanes was arrested the following day, Thursday, in Buenavista, Guimaras, where he fled. He was taken back to Negros Occidental yesterday and is detained at the police station in Cauayan, some 120 kilometers south of Bacolod City.

Servelito Roldan, the girls' father, was inconsolable when he learned about the death of all his children. He and his wife were out of town when the incident happened, Ponteras said.

Ponteras said the Roldan's neighbors heard cries coming from their house sometime before 11 p.m. but they did not pay attention to it until they saw the house on fire.

The neighbors tried to save the girls but they could not enter the flaming hut, police said.

The police found the charred remains of the girls tied next to each other.

Labanes allegedly had an accomplice, a 16-year-old male, who surrendered earlier to police.

The scabbard of a machete, with Labanes' nickname "Satur" on it, was found in the ruins of the fire, police said.

The accomplice said Labanes was angry at the eldest Roldan girl for telling his wife that Labanes had made her pregnant, but Labanes claimed that he was feuding with the Roldan family after they uprooted some of his crops.

Other violence

In other violence in other parts of the country, communist guerrillas raided an industrial compound in the northern Philippines, burning a power generator and a cargo boat, a police report said Sunday.

Some 33 members of the communist New People's Army (NPA) overran the Diapitan Resources Development Corp. in Dilasag town, Aurora province on Friday burning the equipment and causing about P35 million worth of damage.

Police and soldiers arrived at the scene and clashed with the rebels, wounding an undetermined number of them before the guerrillas fled in motorboats, the police report said.

But reports reaching Armed Forces of the Philippines headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City said that a group of policemen responded to the incident two hours after it began and were met by gunfire from the rebel group. It said the gunfight lasted only three minutes without any casualties on either side before the rebels were able to escape.

Tourists robbed

Still further north, three American tourists with a police escort were robbed by five men who blocked their van on Friday in Banawe, Mt. Province.

Reports reaching police headquarters at Camp Crame, Quezon City, identified the victims as Ronald Riley, 64; Patrick Riley, 31, and Shahia Ettefagh, 52, all of San Francisco, California.

The reports said the three had gone to Sagada last week in a van with Jesus and Mervic Barot of Subic, Zambales. From Sagada, the van driven by Enrique Miranda, was followed by a passenger jeepney, prompting the group to report the matter to a Mt. Province police outpost.

The police assigned a patrolman, PO1 Ernesto Daluyan, to go with the group to Banawe.

While on the national highway at around 7:30 Friday night, the group was flagged down by the suspects who, at gunpoint, dragged the policeman and Meric Barot out of the van.

The suspects took Daluyan's .45-cal. pistol and left him and Barot on the highway. The suspects then told the driver to proceed to Banawe.

While the van was cruising, the suspects divested the victims of their cash and valuables worth about P131,000. *With AFP reports*

Aussies warned on Mindanao

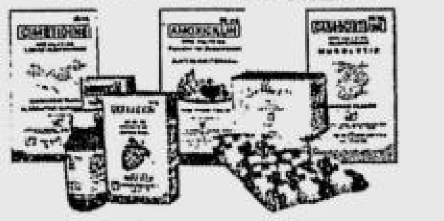
AUSTRALIANS in Mindanao have been advised by their embassy in Manila to leave the place if they are "concerned for their safety."

The Australian Embassy modified its travel advisory on the Philippines on Friday but clarified that the alert level had not been scaled down.

"Australians in Mindanao should vary routes and times of travel, and follow the security advice provided by local authorities," the advisory now reads. "Australians concerned for their safety should consider leaving Mindanao."

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon and the World Tourism Organization have asked countries to be specific in issuing travel advisories so as not to affect tourist arrivals in peaceful areas.

"Should be avoided" was how the Australian Embassy described some areas in Mindanao. *Norman Bordadora*



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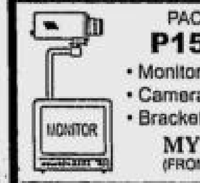

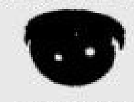

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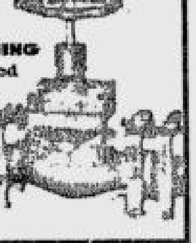

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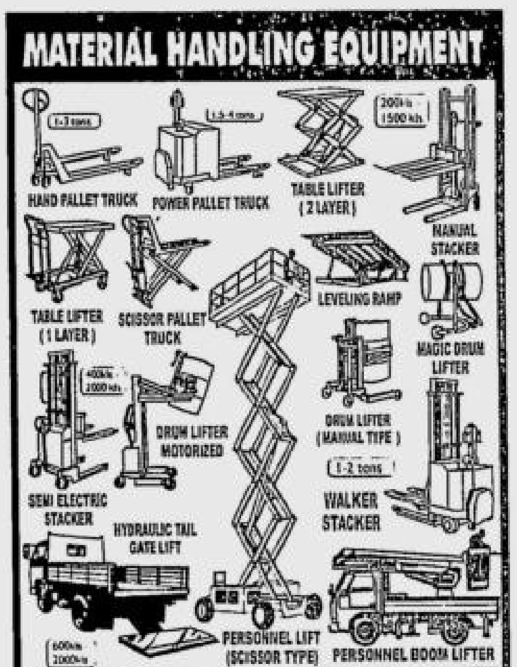

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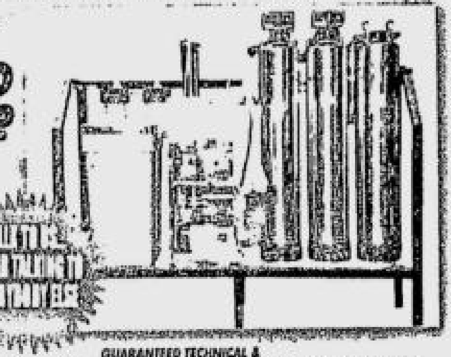

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Revolt grows against Meralco

By G. Lacuarta

MILITANT groups yesterday vowed to lead a "people power" revolt to pressure the Manila Electric Co. into immediately returning to consumers P28 billion in overcharges, as the Supreme Court ordered last week.

But Malacañang said yesterday that it would be guided by "national interest" in the implementation of the ruling.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the decision reached by the high tribunal's third division was still up for appeal before the full court by the Lopez family-owned utility firm.

Turn

"It's the consumers' turn to serve up the bill to Meralco," said Wilson Fortaleza, national president of Sanlakas, which will lead a picket today in front of the Meralco building in Ortigas, Pasig City.

Fortaleza said his group would urge subscribers not to pay their electric bills in December if Meralco fails to comply with the high court's order.

Two militant organizations, Pamalakaya and Nnara-Youth, threatened a "consumers' revolt in gigantic proportions."

Protest

Other militant groups led by the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) were set to revive "tatak centers" in front of major Meralco collection offices in Metro Manila, where consumers may have their bill payments stamped "Under Protest." *With Carlito Pablo, AFP*

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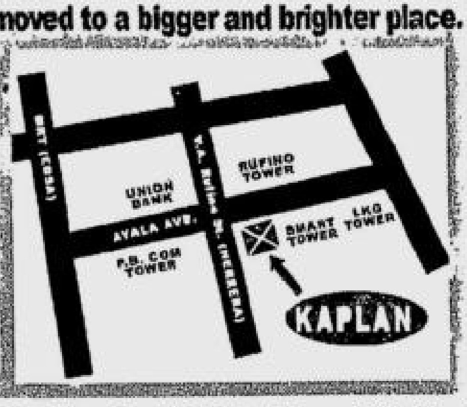

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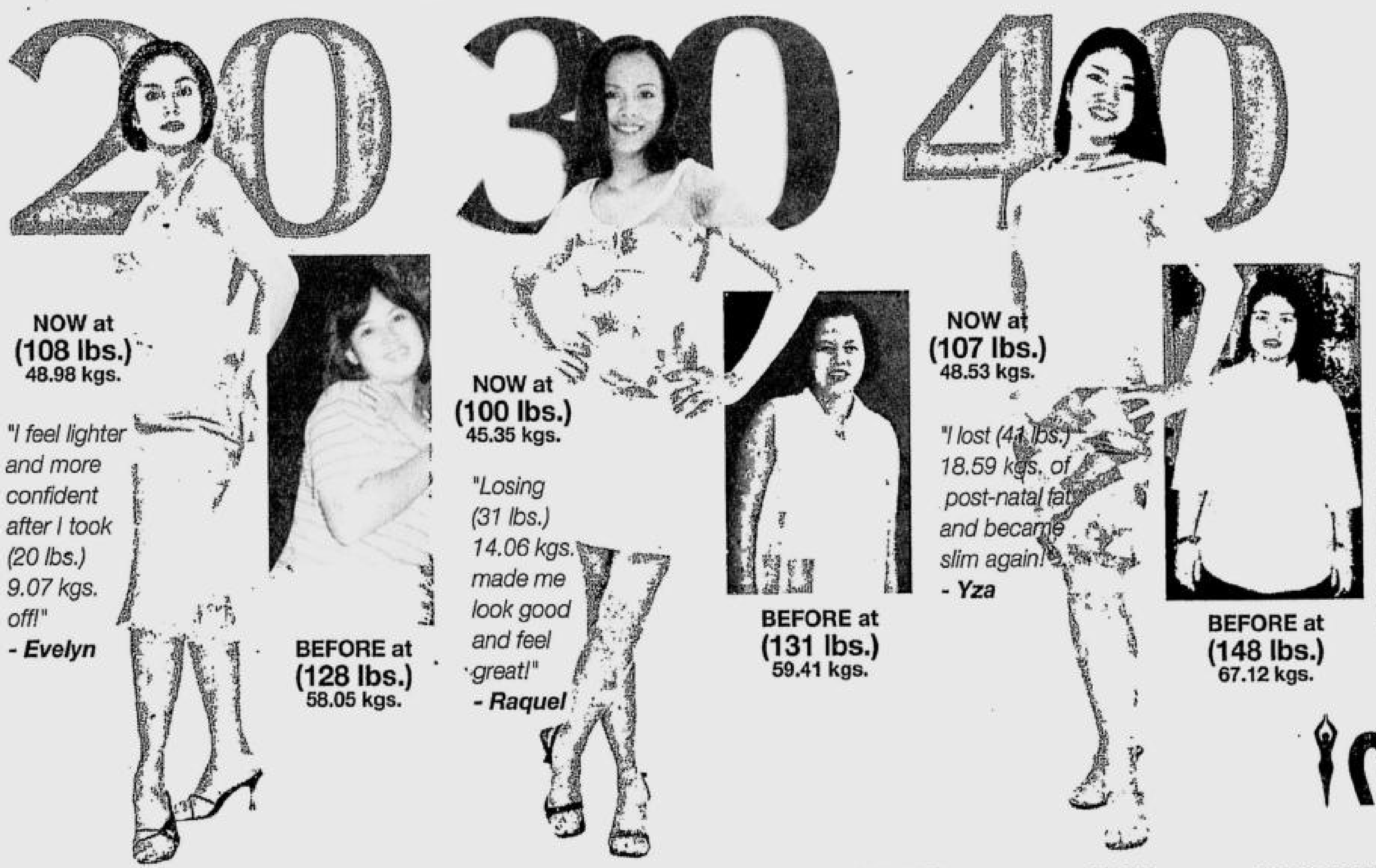
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Militants pan GMA plan for Guardians

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

"ONE insane and crazy idea."

This was how militant groups described a plan by President Macapagal-Arroyo to train members of the Guardians, who include former coup plotters and rebel soldiers, for the government's anti-terrorism drive.

"This is simply idiotic, highly stupid and graphically psychotic. President Macapagal's obsession to train ex-coup plotters for the anti-terror campaign is one insane and crazy idea," said Gerry Albert Corpuz, spokesperson of the fisherfolk group Pamalakaya.

Corpuz charged that Ms Macapagal was building her own death squads ahead of her presidential bid in 2004.

Fernando Hicap, Pamalakaya president, said Ms Macapagal had better resign if she continued to make decisions like the one utilizing the Guardians.

In a speech before the National Convention of the Guardians Philippines Inc. (GPI), the President had directed Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto (ret.) to draw up a proposal to train Guardians members for anti-terrorism duties.

Ms Macapagal also praised the Guardians for their loyalty to the government. She assured them of her administration's support, citing the P1 million given to the group last year for livelihood assistance.

Corpuz said Congress should look into the President's directive.

"We ask Congress to grill President Macapagal over her proposal to transform the GPI into anti-terror squads. The truth is the evil and militarist minds of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and his fascist cohorts are behind this equally absurd proposal," Corpuz said.

He warned Congress about the repercussions of training members of the Guardians, saying the administration is resurrecting civil-military groups to crack down on cause-oriented groups opposed to state policies.

Pinays say no to new HK tax

ABOUT 400 foreign maids in Hong Kong rallied yesterday against proposals to tax them for coming to work in the city.

"No to levy, no to another wage cut," chanted the domestic workers from the Philippines, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand as they marched through downtown streets.

The protest opposed moves by a number of pro-business and pro-Beijing political parties urging the government to impose a levy of up to 750 Hong Kong dollars (US$96) on the workers, who earn a minimum monthly wage of HK$3,670 (US$471).

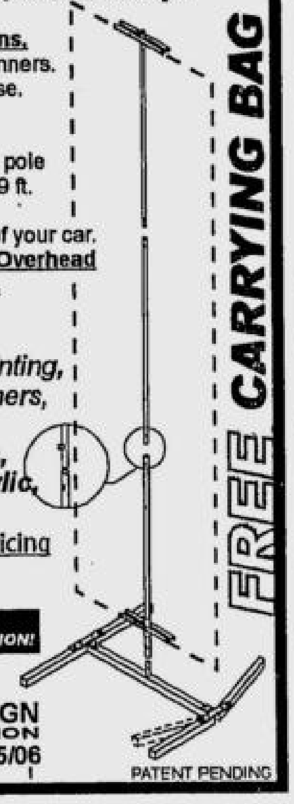
"Why tax the lowliest paid?" said Connie Bragas-Regalado of United Filipinos in Hong Kong, which organized the march. *AP*

Noted Scientist to Speak on Effects of Westernized Diets

Dr. Gerhard Schrauzer, Professor Emeritus and Director of the Biological Trace Research Institute (UC, San Diego), and member of the American Association for Cancer Research, is coming to Manila to talk on the "Implications of Westernization of Asian Diets". In this seminar, he will discuss the correlation of cancer incidences with the influx of non-traditional foods in the diet of the Filipino. Furthermore, he will present his data on organic selenium as an alleviating factor in disease incidence.

Ms. Cory Quirino will be the Chairperson of this event, which will be attended by health professionals and nutrition experts as well as key players in the animal industry.

The seminar will be held on Tuesday, November 26, 2002 at the Garden Ballroom of the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel in Ortigas. Program starts exactly at 9:00 am. This event is organized by **Alltech.**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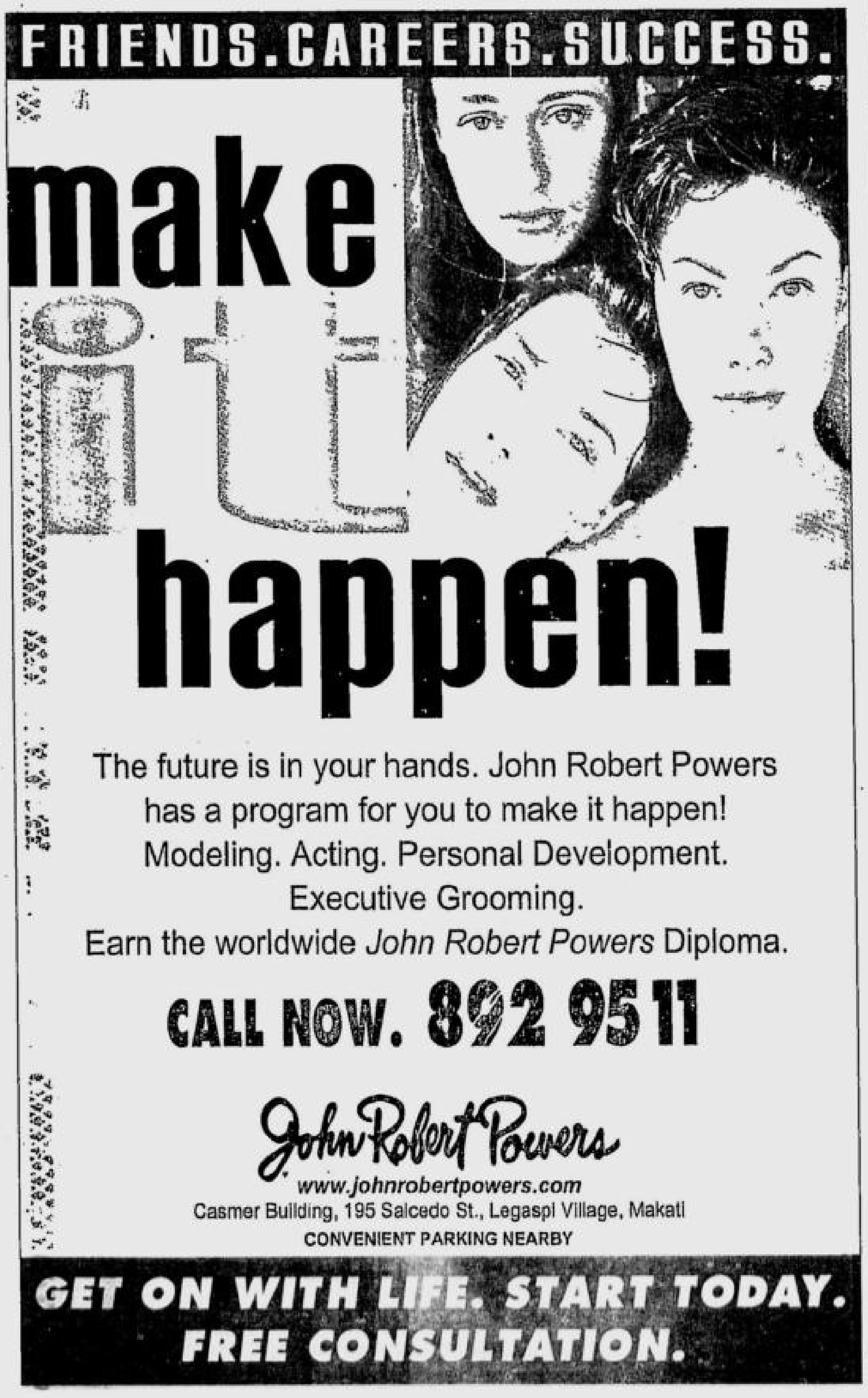
December 5 (Thursday) orientation will be held at the 19th floor of Philamlife Tower.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Wednesday, 11 December 2002
1:30-5:00 Survey of 2001 Supreme Court Decisions on Public Officers
Lecturer: PROFESSOR SALVADOR T. CARLOTA University of the Philippines College of Law
Thursday, 12 December 2002
1:30-5:00 Ethics in Public Office
Lecturer: JUSTICE HILARION L. AQUINO (Ret.) Court of Appeals
Friday, 13 December 2002
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RP may lose underwater rights unless it acts quickly

THE PHILIPPINES faces the risk of losing by default its right over its continental shelf (underwater plain) and extended offshore areas and resources, including possibly petroleum, a geologist from the University of the Philippines-Diliman has warned.

Dr. Teodoro Santos of the UP National Institute of Geological Sciences (NIGS) said the dire prospect looms as the 2004 deadline set by the United Nations for the filing of offshore claims draws near and the government is still in the preparatory stage of the delineation project.

Found all around the archipelago, the country's continental shelf extends 200 nautical miles (370.4 km) from a baseline near the shores.

The delineation project, initiated in the academic community, was begun last year in line with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. But Santos said Congress had yet to approve the project budget, which could reach P1 billion.

"(The) time (left) is not enough," he said. "There are lots of things to do and support for the project is coming in only now. Massive geological data is needed. Environment and resource assessments are required." *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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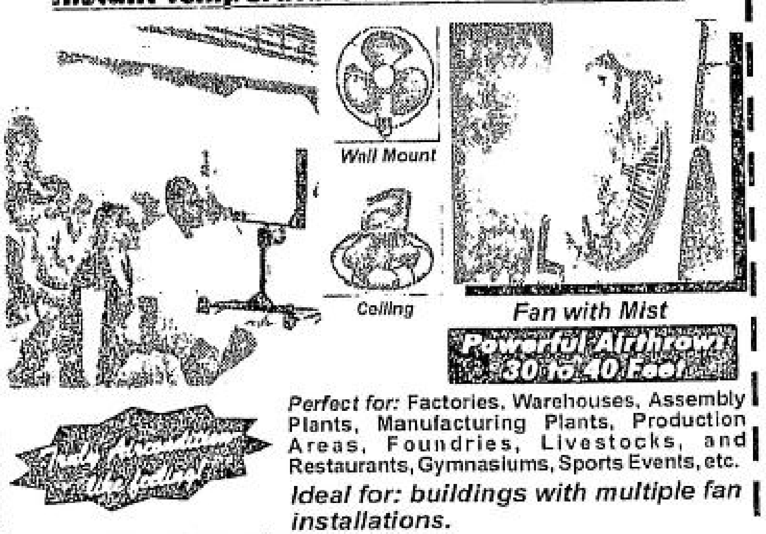

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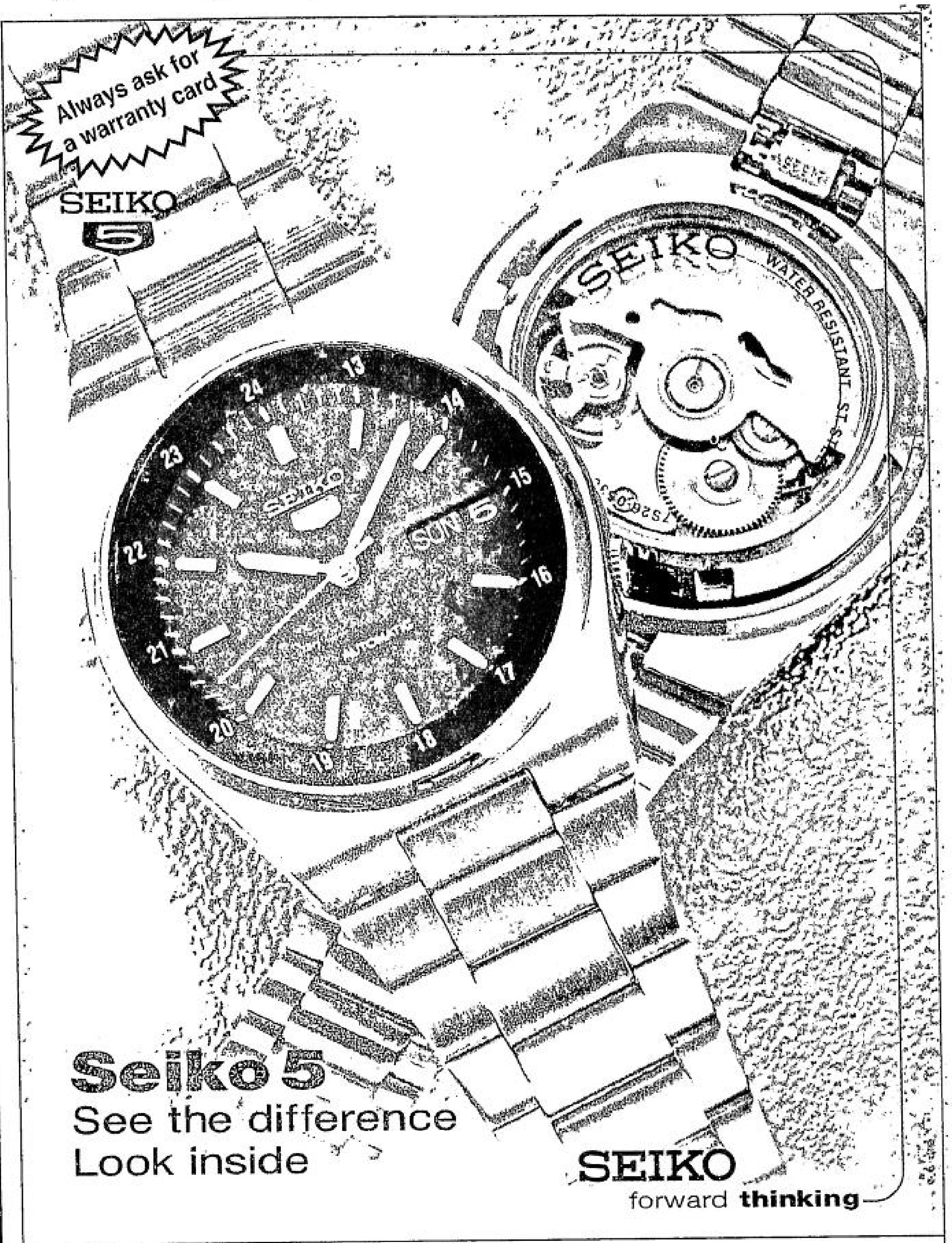

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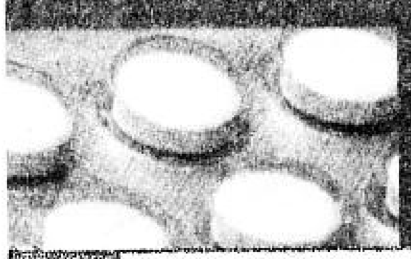

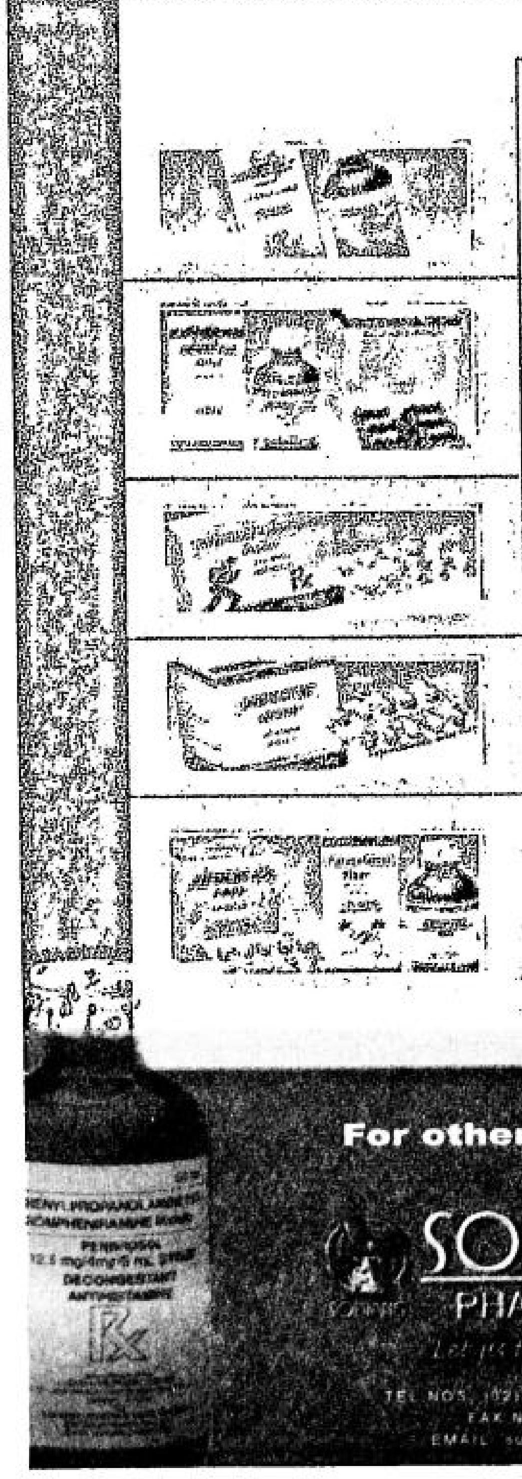

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'Diligin Mo ang Uhaw na Lupa' song fails to console Imelda

From page A1

with the family of the late Ramon Cojuangco over disputed shares in the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Marcos' simple attire was eclipsed by a multitude of multicolored *ternos* and gowns of varying shades worn by Bulacan's richest women. The ballroom that night was filled with more than 500 guests. Among them: Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo and Bulacan Gov. Josefina dela Cruz.

Former supporters

After her former supporters—led by loyalist organizer Cherry Cobarrubias, broadcaster Rita Gaddi and businessmen Nonoy Escolin and Anthony Violago—came out to denounce her, the flamboyant former "Rose of Tacloban" is once again the talk of the town.

Veteran society columnists Johnny Litton and Maurice Arcache were seen talking to a visibly worried Marcos at one point, eager to hear it all from the lady herself.

At one point in the program, Litton was seated next to her. She was seen talking to him too.

Much later, after Litton had left the table, Arcache dropped by her table to kiss her after the program, just before the dancing started. But Marcos was already deep in talk with her friends and other guests.

For the most part, Marcos, who came with her daughter, Irene Marcos-Araneta, just before 9 p.m., conversed with those who came to her table.

A source said Marcos was invited to the Club Bulakeño 14th Anniversary Ball by incoming president, Berna Lomotan Rustia.

The club's officers, led by presidents Zenaida "Nedy" Rustia Tantoco and Sonny Tanchangco, dropped by Imelda's table once in a while.

Concert tribute

The program highlight was the concert tribute to national artist for music and literature Levy Celerio.

Masterpieces of the late maestro, who could expertly draw tunes from a leaf, were played by the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of its music director and principal conductor, Maestro Ruggiero Barbieri. The "Celerio Overture," arranged by Romy San Jose, was composed of the favorite tunes "Paano Kita Lilimutin," "Kung Batid Mo Lamang," "Kalesa" and "Kahit Konting Pagtingin."

Musical compositions by Santiago Suarez ("Bakya Mo Neneng"), national artist for music Lucio San Pedro ("Sa Ugoy ng Duyan"), Juan Silos Jr., ("Waray-Waray"), Ernani Cuenco ("Diligin Mo ng Hamog ang Uhaw na Lupa") and Restie Umali ("Saan Ka Man Naroroon") and a favorite folk tune ("Tayo ay Magtanim") that had been enlivened by lyrics from Celerio's pen, were interpreted by noted tenors Nolyn Cabahug and Vladimir Valera, and renowned sopranos Aileen Espinosa-Cura and Maria Rachelle Gerodias, with music played by the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra.

During the performances, Araneta changed places to sit beside her mother so they could listen to the music together.

After the musical performances, there was also a dance sequence performed by the Club Bulakeño's past and present officials.

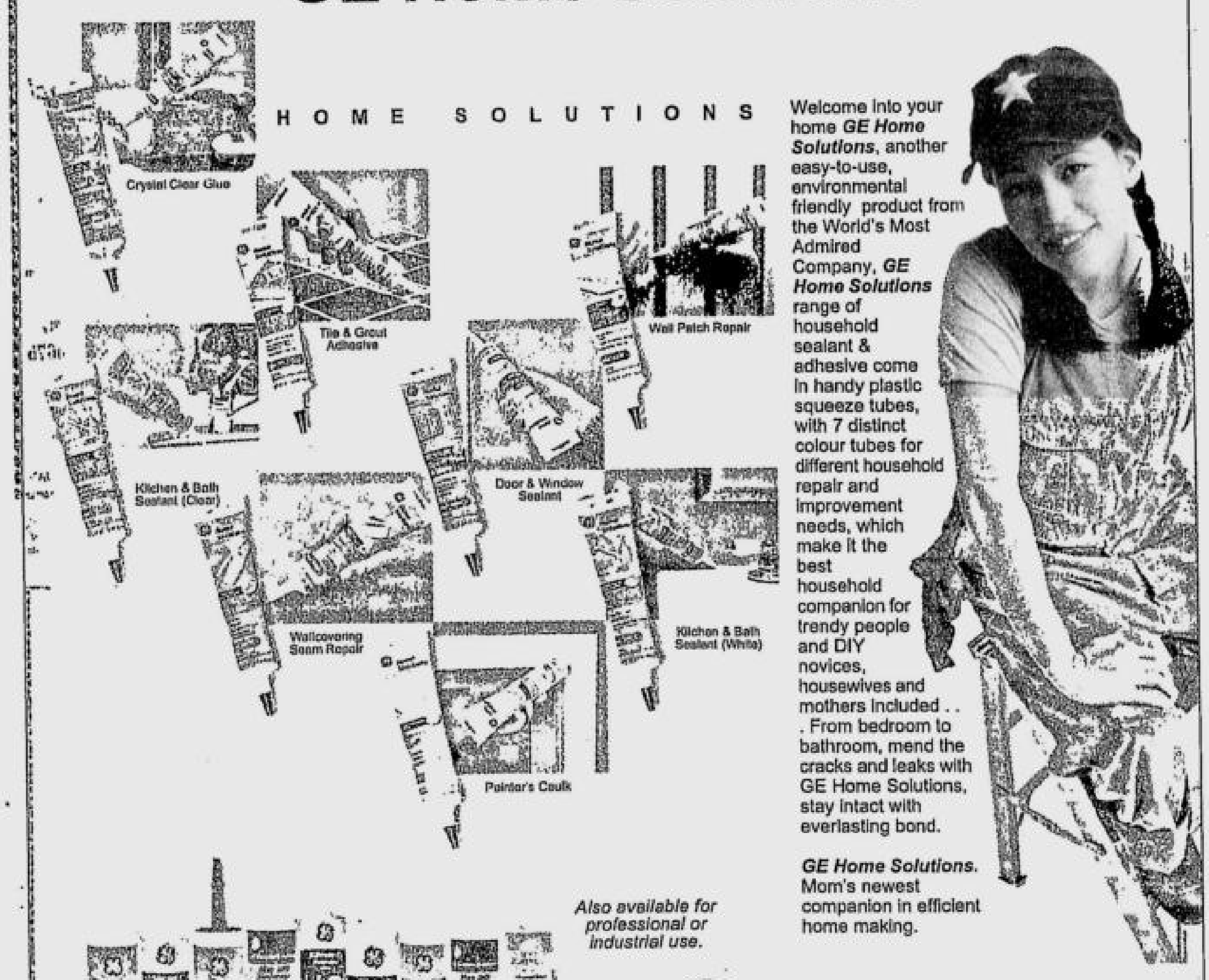
After the program, it was time for ballroom dancing. At that point, Araneta left the place, leaving Marcos in a huddle with well-heeled friends from Club Bulakeño. There was also the usual picture-taking.

Marcos then danced a bit, but soon left the floor to go back to her table, where she continued conversing with her friends.

Her oldest daughter, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos, arrived at around 11:10 p.m. to accompany her mother after Irene had left.

A famous astrologist also came by to greet Marcos, who seemed to have been expecting her, and sat at her table.

Under a canopy of fresh anahaw leaves—the table's centerpiece—Marcos talked with friends, her face concerned and troubled, as the other guests danced the night away.



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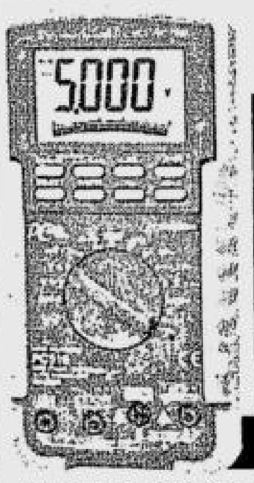

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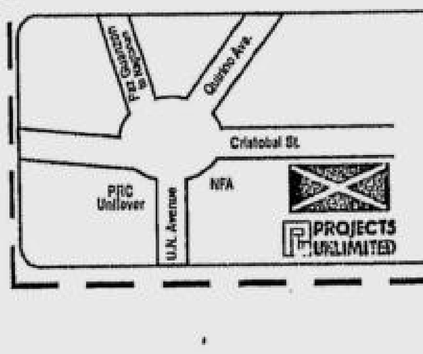

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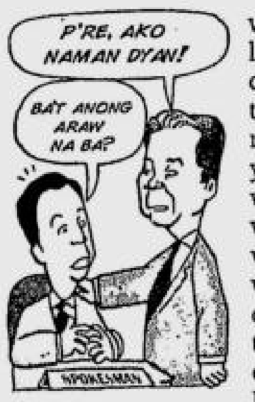
If it's Tuesday, it must be 'Bobi'

By Carlito Pablo


P'RE, AKO NAMAN DYAN!
BAT ANONG ARAW NA BA?
SPOKESMAN

EVEN with Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto "Bobi" Tiglao back on the job, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, who doubled as spokesperson when Tiglao went on a six-month leave last April, isn't about to fade away.

The two men designated to speak officially for President Macapagal-Arroyo as well as arrange publicity for her have amicably agreed to divide up the job.

Bunye, a lawyer and ex-legislator, will take care of briefing the press on Mondays, Thursdays and Sundays.

Tiglao, who has taken on the additional responsibility of being the President's chief of staff, will be handling press briefings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

"That's the general agreement," Bunye told Palace reporters.

Bunye was obliged to disclose the arrangement yesterday when he was asked why he was handling the teleconference with Malacañang reporters on a Sunday, a job that Tiglao normally does.

Before he went on leave last April, Tiglao did the speaking for Ms Macapagal while then Press Secretary Noel Cabrera took on the bureaucratic job of running the Office of the Press Secretary.

Tiglao was named press secretary a few days before he took the leave to accept a six-month fellowship at Kyoto University in Japan.

Bunye was appointed press secretary in his stead with the proviso that Tiglao, who returned in October, would remain as presidential spokesperson.

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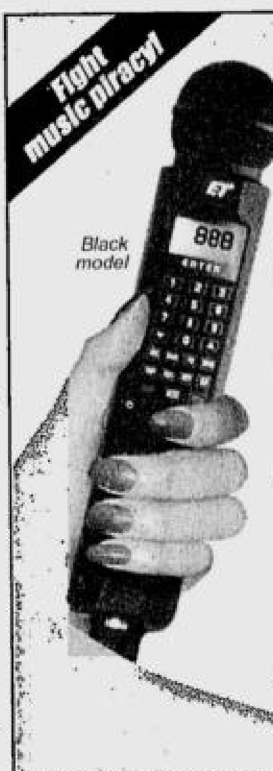

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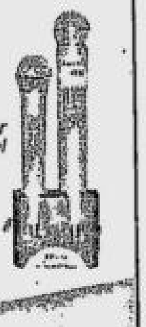

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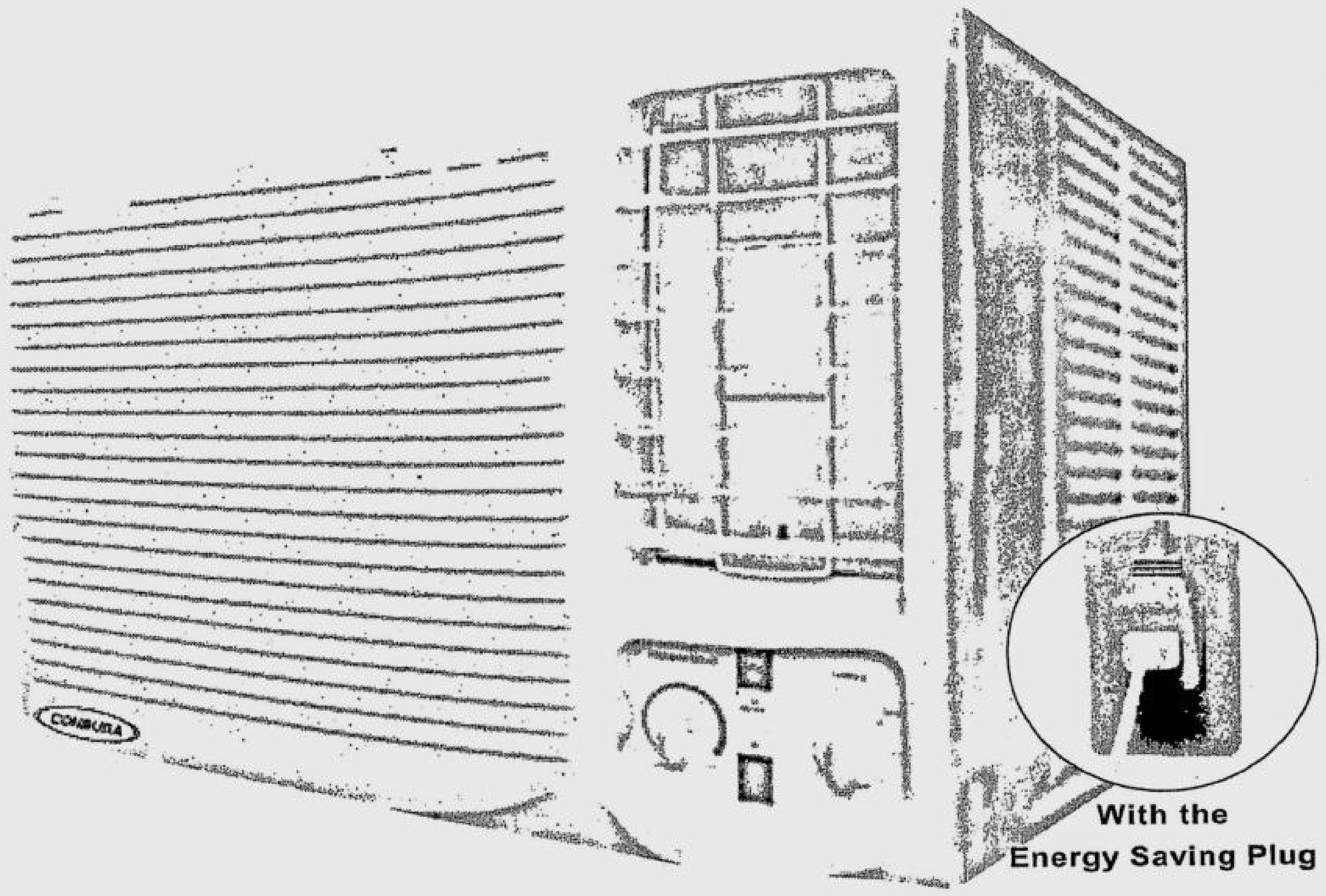

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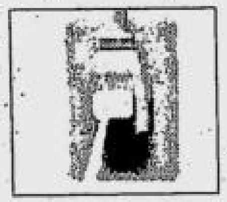

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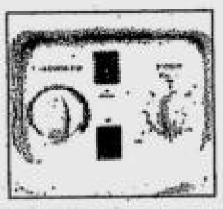

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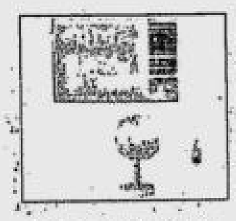

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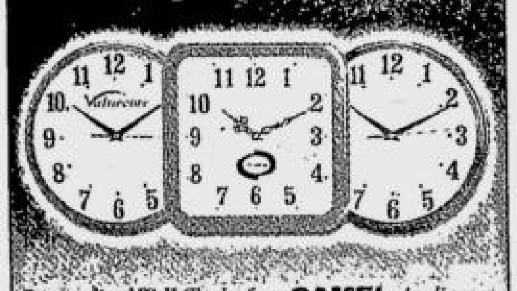

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Vol. 17 No. 343
ISSN 0116-2642

OPINION

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph **website:** http://www.inq7.net

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

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The hollow man

EDITORIAL

SO this is the way the world, as hyped by Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama, ends—not with a bang but with a whimper. A mere three days after the former close aide of the President charged in a privilege speech that a Cabinet official received a $2-million bribe from a crony of deposed President Joseph Estrada, Villarama said it was up to the "victims" themselves to name the "million-dollar man."

"I have already opened the door for people who are victims of this Cabinet official," he said last Friday. "It is the victim who should come out now or forever hold his peace."

We can forgive the veteran politician—a first-time congressman, but a seasoned political player—his misuse of the famous phrase from the marriage liturgy. What we cannot understand, however, is Villarama's suddenly diminished job description.

This is the same backroom operator who played a key role in the wooing of the opposition's Blas Ople, now the secretary of foreign affairs. This is the same ex-president of the Manila Times who brokered congressional support for his former boss, ex-Times owner and Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez, the subject of a US extradition campaign. This is the same Aksyon Demokratiko congressman who led the House in killing the impeachment complaint against controversial Election Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco.

And yet, to hear Villarama speak last Friday, he is nothing but a simple doorman—to the country's hall of grievances, we presume—whose job is merely to open doors for alleged victims. Saying he was being baited by opposition Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson to name Justice Secretary Hernando "Nani" Perez as the "million-dollar" official, he also implied he was not far from being a victim himself. "I refuse to be used in the personal feud between Nani and Ping. I'm being baited by Ping to name Nani, but I have no proof."

An almost-victim and a doorman, then, but (in case an impressionable public missed it) with a degree from one of the most prestigious schools in the world. "I don't invent evidence," he huffed. "They don't teach this in Harvard."

Apparently, judging from Villarama's actions, what they do teach in that famous school is something less labor-intensive but even more practical: prevarication, parliamentary cowardice, political manipulation.

Lest he confuse his memory with desire (to paraphrase a rather more famous alumnus of Harvard), allow us to remind him:

Last Tuesday, Villarama said he delivered his speech because Perez dared him to name names. "Now here comes the honorable secretary of justice feeling alluded to and perhaps out of pique, challenging this representative to name names." That use of "feeling alluded to" is masterful, a finger-pointing with hands still closed.

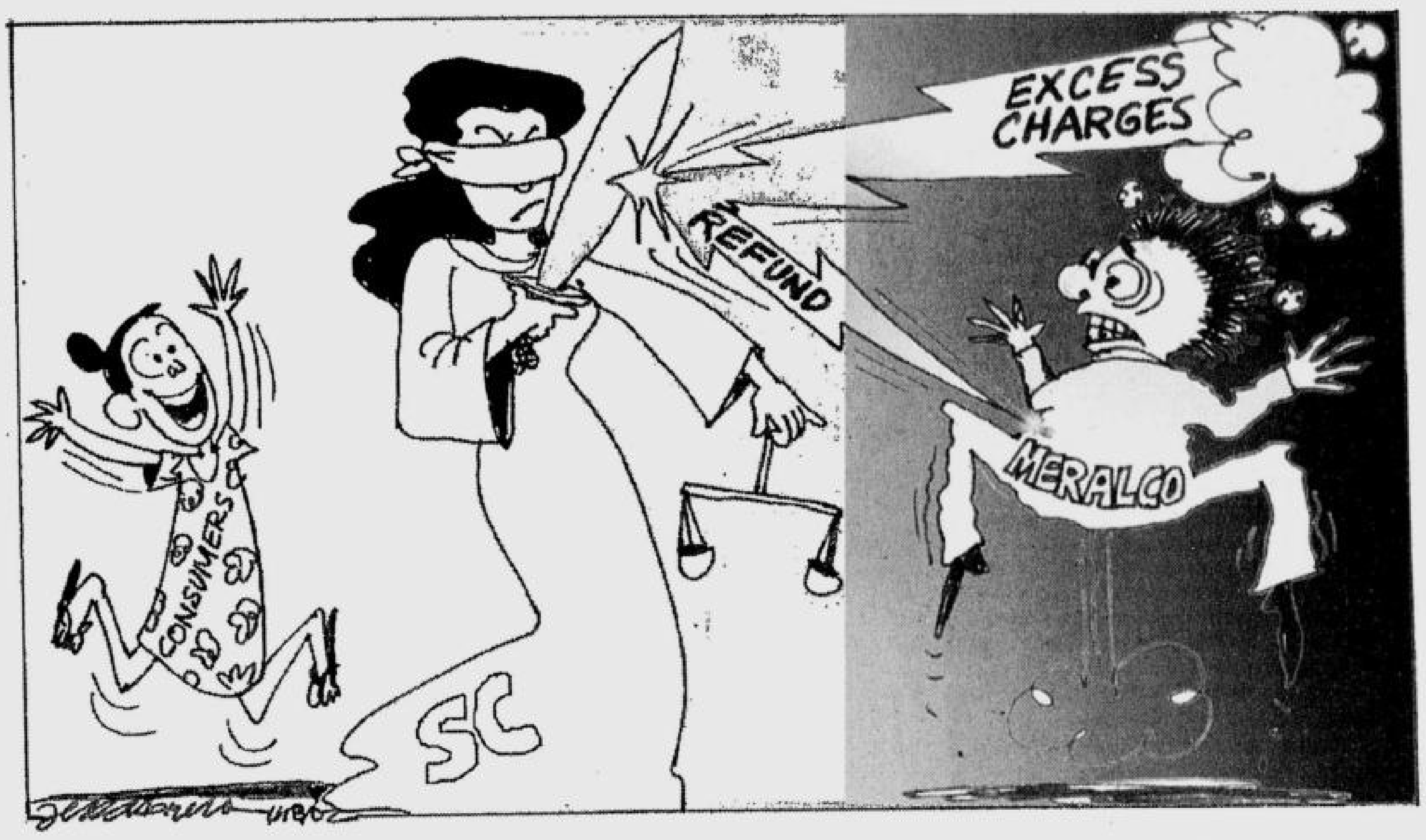
That same day, Villarama said he was "ready to name the Cabinet official" after he obtained bank documents and other evidence. Last Thursday, however, he told Perez he was not referring to him "or to any Cabinet member," adding: "I am just quoting the person who gave the information and documents to me."

And then on Friday, he said: "I can assure everybody that I did not mention any names (in my speech). I accused nobody, so I don't have to clear anybody."

Perhaps we need a Harvard education to understand just what Villarama has done: accept the challenge to name names without actually naming anyone; take up the cudgels for victims but only up to the doorway and not beyond; speak in Congress about a $2-million bribe where nobody is accused but everybody in the Cabinet, but especially Perez, is implicated.

In the meantime, all we can do is reflect on the obvious, that Villarama and Perez are both the President's men, who belong to different factions and operate in different circles. In this issue, the gentleman from Bulacan has shown himself to be a prevaricator and a coward; he must be hoping fervently that the political clout he hoped to gain from his manufactured crisis outweighs the damage to his reputation.

We don't need to go to Harvard to know that.



SC must decide quickly cases like Hagedorn's

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE 11-2 decision of the Supreme Court en banc on the qualification of three-time Mayor Edward Hagedorn to run for mayor of Puerto Princesa in the recall election of Sept. 24, 2002 finally puts to rest questions on recall elections and terms and should, therefore, hasten resolution of similar cases.

Briefly, the major issue is this: Hagedorn was elected for three consecutive terms in the 1992, 1995 and 1998 elections and served in full his three consecutive terms. He could no longer run for mayor in the 2001 elections as the Constitution and the Local Government Code bar three-term local officials from running for a fourth consecutive term. So Hagedorn did not run for mayor in the 2002 elections. It was Victorino Dennis M. Socrates who did and won. Hagedorn ceased to be the mayor on June 30, 2002 and become a private citizen.

Meanwhile, the majority of barangay officials of Puerto Princesa passed a resolution expressing loss of confidence in Socrates and moved for a recall election which the Commission on Elections set for Sept. 24, 2002. Hagedorn filed his certificate of candidacy for the election which Socrates and others opposed on the ground that that would already be Hagedorn's fourth term.

Questions: Could Hagedorn run for that recall election after three consecutive terms? If elected, wouldn't that be Hagedorn's fourth consecutive term?

Yes, replied the Supreme Court to the first question. And no to the second. It would only be his first term in a second round of a three-term cycle.

From June 30, 2001 until the recall election of Sept. 24, 2002 (during which he won by 3,018 votes over his closest opponent) Hagedorn was no longer mayor. The mayor was Socrates. This period is clearly an interruption in the continuity of Hagedorn's service as mayor because of a legal prohibition, said the tribunal in the decision penned by Associate Justice Antonio Carpio.

"Hagedorn's three consecutive terms ended on June 30, 2001. Hagedorn's new term, the recall term from Sept. 24, 2002 to June 20, 2004 is not a seamless continuation of his previous three consecutive terms as mayor. One cannot stitch together Hagedorn's previous three terms with his recall term to make the recall term a fourth consecutive term because factually it is not. An involuntary interruption occurred from June 30, 2001 to Sept. 24, 2002 which broke the continuity or consecutive character of Hagedorn's service as mayor," said the high court.

"A necessary consequence of the interruption of continuity of service is the start of a new term following the interruption," continued the Court. "An official elected in a recall election serves the unexpired term of the recalled official. This unexpired term is in itself one term for purposes of counting the three-term limit."

This question now being clear, the Supreme Court should now be able to resolve without delay two other similar cases: those against Gov. Leonardo Roman of Bataan and Mayor Francis Tolentino of Tagaytay. These cases were filed much earlier than the Hagedorn case. The latter was filed only last Sept. 24, 2002 and it was decided last Nov. 12. The Roman case was filed one year earlier and the Tolentino case about the same time. Why was the newer case decided first before the older ones? The facts of all three are almost the same. And the assigned ponente of the Roman case, Associate Justice Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, voted with the majority in the Hagedorn case. It shouldn't be difficult, therefore, for her to write the decision on the Roman case.

The Roman case is almost identical to the Hagedorn case, except that Roman's recall victory occurred in the beginning of his three-term cycle. Roman was elected governor in the recall election of 1993. Under the doctrine laid down in the Hagedorn case, that is Roman's first term. Roman was then reelected in 1995, 1998 and 2001—three consecutive terms. That plus the recall term makes four. Roman is therefore disqualified to run for the 2001 election as that would already be his fourth consecutive term which is prohibited by the Constitution and the Local Government Code. Roman is now serving as governor and the Supreme Court must tell him that as quickly as possible.

For this is one clear case of "justice delayed is justice denied." For every day that resolution of the case is delayed, it denies the people of Bataan to be governed by a legitimate governor. Roman has already reigned as governor—illegally— for almost 18 months now, or more than half of the 2001-2004 term.

A delayed victory of the people of Bataan would be inutile. So it is hard to understand why the Supreme Court is dragging its feet on the case, especially because there is only one issue, purely a question of law. Does Roman's election and service as governor, by virtue of the recall election of 1993, constitute a term? If the answer is no, then he is not disqualified. But if the answer is yes, then he must leave immediately.

And under the doctrine laid down in the Hagedorn case, the answer has to be "Yes."

The Tolentino case is similar. Francis Tolentino ran for mayor of Tagaytay in 1992 and lost. He filed an election protest and eventually won and served the unexpired term of his rival. That was his first term. He was the winner so that was HIS term, not his rival's. He was reelected in 1995, 1998 and 2001 thus giving him four consecutive terms. His 2001 to 2004 term, being the fourth from which he is barred, is therefore illegal and he must leave the mayorship immediately.

But he won't do that unless the Supreme Court says so. So what is the Supreme Court waiting for?

Mountains

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

EVERY death is always tragic, particularly to those it leaves behind. But some are more especially so than others.

Such a one is the death of Minh Van Nguyen, who was one of the victims of the crash of Laoag Airlines Flight 585. Minh, the son of a Vietnamese father and a British mother, was a volunteer for the Volunteer Service Organization, the British counterpart of the Peace Corps.

I met him some months ago in the company of my good friend Pancho Lara, who is the current head (the first Filipino one, previous heads being British) of the VSO in the Philippines, at the Irish pub in Makati called The Craic during one of the World Cup matches. He was tall and *mestizo*, bearing strong traces of both his Asian and European ancestry. I didn't know that the Asian part of it was Vietnamese until the crash. Pancho introduced us only by our first names, and I thought Minh, which I didn't hear with the "h," was just a nickname. I was at pains to reconcile him with the name Minh Van Nguyen that appeared in cold print Tuesday morning in the papers.

He wore T-shirt, jeans and rubber slippers, and seemed completely at home in the place. He was a quiet young man who smiled a lot. He also drank quite a lot, which, friends would say, helped him on many an occasion to discover the gift of gab. He was assigned to the north, which included Laoag, and the rice wine, which he shared liberally with new-found Filipino friends, was known to even inspire him to break into song. It was not known however to stoke him to wild and un-British, or un-Vietnamese, behavior. He was always able to hold his drink. As well indeed as to his duties—that he held on to with particular diligence. They are grieving for him deeply in that part of the world.

What made his death especially tragic was that he was not alone who died. His parents had come all the way to the Philippines to visit him, their first time to do so, and it was, as they themselves proclaimed to friends, the best vacation they ever had in their lives. What made it so was that they spent a week in Palawan, specifically in El Nido, and found the spot as near to paradise as they could get on earth. Minh had just turned 30 during the last week of October, and it was his family's and friends way of helping him cross into the threshold of, well, whatever it is 30 represents, to give him that treat.

Minh's parents—Thuanh and Julia—decided they would share a bit more time with their son before flying home to Britain and so accompanied him to Laoag. All of them perished in the flight.

Their friends theorize that that may very well have contributed to Minh's death. Minh was a powerful swimmer. It is possible, some of them muse in retrospect, that he tried to save his parents. He would not have left them behind. They could see him in their minds frantically trying to unbuckle their seatbelts and staying there quite literally to his last breath. He possessed those levels of selflessness. It lodged in his instincts.

He loved the sea, and swimming. After coming back from El Nido, he had regaled a friend from Sibat with tales of its wonders, and had told her she had missed something by not being there. His friend said she did not know how to swim. Minh said that was no problem, he would have taught her how. He proposed jokingly to do so the very next day, at the Manila Bay. He cautioned his friend however to close her mouth tightly so as not to catch the waters of the bay. There were other, more horrible, ways to die, he joked, than by drowning.

His Filipino friends now recall that that wasn't the last of his unwitting premonitions. Two days before he boarded the Laoag plane, he went to the VSO office to finish some work. Finding no coffee in the cupboard, he went on and bought a whole bagful of it, and put it in a jar. It was almost as if, his friends say grief-stricken, he was preparing for a wake.

But there was one thing that made Minh's death the most tragic of all. Which was that he wasn't just a nice young man who knew how to make friends, he was a brilliant young man who knew a thing or two about physical forces. He was a doctor of engineering, specializing in renewable energy, or solar power. He got his AB in Cambridge and his Ph.D. in Nottingham. As his thesis, he developed a prototype of a passive solar-powered cooling system, designing it and supervising its construction in a laboratory. It did not stay in the laboratory for very long. In 1997, it was installed in an office building in the United Kingdom.

The whole world was spread out before him, like an oyster. All he had to do was pluck it. But Minh was brilliant in quite another respect, which was his ability to distinguish pearl from sea glitter. When the time came, he did pluck the pearl. That was not a job with a multinational firm, particularly in the R and D of an oil company trying to show token environmental concern. That was volunteer work in a country that was known only to be impoverished and a haven of terrorists, the latter as advertised gleefully by its own leaders. Indeed, not in that country's capital, which offered some of the comforts of home, but in its interstices, in the heart or pit of it. Whenever the NGOs needed someone to explain to government officials the wisdom of tapping renewal energy rather than depleting non-renewable ones, the people had a champion. They are weeping for him inconsolably there.

One is tempted to say Minh's passing is not just Britain's loss, it is the Philippines' loss as well. But it is more than that, much. much, more than that. It is all of humanity's loss. Here was a one who knew how to serve the people, in the collective, undifferentiated, universal sense of the term "people."

This is a death that weighs like a mountain.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Newly-inked railway project to open up Bicol region

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AT THE RECENT anniversary forum of the Semiconductors & Electronics Industries Philippines Inc., CEOs of the biggest electronics firms spoke about the industry's strengths, problems and prospects. The electronics industry is the driver of RP economy, supplying 70 percent of its exports. A CEO raised the issue of the lack of a railway system in RP, opining that no real progress can be attained by any country without a railway system. Many observers, including this columnist, have raised this point before, noting that our single highway system in the north and the south cannot handle the needs of industrialization adequately.

* * *

Happily a breakthrough was scored when an MOU was signed last Friday at the Palace between the RP and Chinese governments, whereby the latter committed to finance and modernize our railway system to Bicol. The agreement came in the wake of the visit to Manila of the chair of the powerful National People's Congress, Li Peng. Turnkey construction will begin early next year. As Speaker Jose de Venecia, who negotiated this commitment from the Chinese government, pointed out, this multi-billion rail project is expected to open up far-flung areas of Southern Luzon, especially the Bondoc Peninsula and the Bicol region which have always been impoverished; it will provide higher income to millions of farmers because of increased commerce, create rural entrepreneurship and build towns and cities.

* * *

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who, together with a large contingent of House members, witnessed the signing between the two countries, can be justified in being proud of this project. First, it will be the first major government effort to resuscitate the collapsed railway system here in over three decades (after the highly respected Col. Nicanor Jimenez, father of our editor in chief and longtime PNR chief, left, it began its downward slide). Second, the Chinese investment and earlier, that of the Korean government, in railway projects here have to be read as clear indication of faith in the Macapagal administration's economic vision. Ironically it seems that other governments have more faith in the Filipino than the Pinoy himself. Interestingly, Friday's MOA has raced ahead of the enactment by Congress of the Railways Act; it was recently passed in the House, but is still pending in the Senate.

* * *

The way the railway system is shaping up, the South Line from Manila to Calamba, which will also double up as a commuter line, will be re-built by the South Korean government; moves are afoot to also rebuild the Manila-San Fernando, La Union railway. This is a very important development, for as GMA has explained to the media, a rehabilitated and dependable commuter train system will help decongest Metro Manila because it will encourage people here to relocate to the outer areas, as in the case of many metropolises abroad. Government's fairly efficient handling of the LRTs and MRTs in Metro Manila raises hopes that it can also run those commuter trains well.

The Chinese-funded project will cover the rehab of the old railway from Calamba to Legazpi City and construction of a completely new line to Matnog, the farthest tip of Sorsogon, which, in turn, is connected by ferry and bus transport to Eastern Visayas. Plans are also afoot for the construction of two railways in Panay Island and one in Mindanao which is so badly needed there.

* * *

I cannot but feel elated over this development, especially in view of so much controversy over two other major public utility enterprises. One is the major power distribution firm Meralco. The Supreme Court recently ordered it to refund consumers for over-billing in the amount of P28.15 billion, but the firm, in what has been popularly termed "blackmail," claims that if that order were to be implemented, Meralco would collapse along with the economy. But as observers have noted, there are many ways to implement the SC order if it wants to: it could bre[illegible] the refund into P33 per capi[illegible] monthly, [illegible] can then be carried into the electric bills [illegible]tial payment for power. What's importan[illegible] sober minds prevail in seeking a soluti[illegible] acceptable to the public and *kaya ng* Meralco.

* * *

Sobriety is also badly needed in the case of Piatco and the scheduled "soft opening" of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport 3. In the past few weeks since this soft opening was scheduled for Dec. 15, I felt glad as it seemed that Naia 3's opening would be unimpeded now, and whatever kinks in Piatco's BOT contract would just be quietly negotiated. The family that owns majority shares of Piatco, the Chengs, has repeatedly said it would welcome negotiation of certain provisions.

But now, there are again threats that the government will take over Naia 3, but this flip-flopping only makes it look so indecisive. Apparently the powerful Palace clique of lawyers and technocrats that seems so greedy for the commission it stands to make from a termination of the Piatco BOT contract and its rebidding to another group, cannot accept the thought that it wouldn't make money as things stand. As the "Coalition to Save Naia 3" put it very well, that clique is really doing President Macapagal such a disservice. If the government hesitates to take over Meralco despite the latter's blackmail, all the more it cannot justify a takeover of Naia 3, which was built without a single centavo spent by the government, since the contract owners are willing to renegotiate certain provisions. If the government will forcibly take over that contract, it may end up facing a double lawsuit—in Singapore where Piatco could file for international arbitration, and in Germany where the aggrieved major investors are based. If this happens, what a way to inaugurate "Visit RP Year 2003!"

The City of Don'ts

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Carlos Isagani T. Zarate

SPLASHED on the front page of the Oct. 30 issue of SunStar Davao was a banner headline saying that crimes committed by minors now dominate blotters of various police stations in Davao City. The story said that at the end of September, at least 746 cases involving minors were recorded by the Women and Children's Division of the Davao City Police Office. The report means that since January, Davao minors were involved in an average of almost three crimes and offenses daily. The crimes committed by these juvenile offenders ranged from simple theft to robbery, from substance abuse to concealment of deadly weapons.

To the general public, the police statistics may not be that startling considering that Davao City is a metropolis of more than a million inhabitants. Yet, if one is to take into account the fact that in the not too distant past, Davao City gained the distinction of, among others, being the country's "Most Child Friendly City" and the "Most Livable City," then that appalling statistic smacks of outright contradictions. This fact was even used by the dreaded Davao Death Squad vigilante group to justify preying on juveniles as its hapless targets in the past.

Despite the tough peace and order campaign of Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, the prevalence of youth gangs is still noticeable in the city. When a documentary on these youth gangs was recently shown on national television, it even generated a howl of protest from many local politicians and even private individuals for the alleged bad portrayal of Davao City, touted as the "safest destination" in the South. But, the police statistics remain. A police officer blamed the root of juvenile criminality "back to the family." A justification rejected by many youth-concerned non-government organizations, saying the problem has deeper causes, like the lack, if not the absence, of economic opportunities, especially among the sizeable urban poor population of the city.

* * *

On the flip side of the coin, another picture of the Davao youth, one that made Davaoeños "prouder," was the result of the five-day Second Mindanao Friendship Games in Cagayan de Oro City, which ended last Oct. 31. Despite the absence of city funding, the Davao City Sports Council Unified Team emerged as the games' overall winner, bagging 38 gold, 21 silver and 17 bronze medals.

The lack of support was aptly described by the Mindanao Daily Mirror in its editorial: "When the 133-man Davao athletic delegation passed through the main presidential stand during the opening rites of the Second Mindanao Friendship Games…the huge crowds at the stands just could not believe that it was the team from Davao sans the parade uniform and wearing the different ….uniforms provided by their respective sponsors."

But the feat made by the privately funded Davao City athletes was even made more significant considering that it was also the first time the city was represented in the annual games and defeated defending champion Cagayan de Oro City. Last year's inaugural games in Lanao del Norte did not see even a single delegate coming from Davao City, also for lack of budgetary support from the city government. This year, Davao City actually bagged back-to-back championships in Cagayan de Oro. In the parallel games for the "differently-abled" persons, Davao also emerged as champions, bagging 53 gold and 27 silver medals.

A city council resolution of commendation was the only belated "incentive" received by the athletic teams and their sponsors.

However, these achievements of the Davao athletes were, sadly, buried in the euphoria of the successful defense of IBF junior featherweight champion Manny Pacquiao against his Thai opponent in the fight dubbed "The Duel in Davao" last Oct. 26. Ironically, while no city fund was also

spent for the fight, Mayor Duterte went out of his way to ensure its success. He was reported to have spent P500,000 on tickets he distributed to friends and other groups, including the rebels. And, despite reports that the organizers lost at least P8 million in staging Pacquiao's title defense (which was blamed on poor ticket sales as a result of the bombings in Zamboanga and North Cotabato days before the fight), Duterte claimed it was "never intended to earn money, it was a goodwill fight." The question, however, is will there be goodwill for the Davao athletes coming from the city government when they compete for next year's friendship games in Davao Oriental?

* * *

CITY OF DON'TS: Here's a travel advisory for those coming to Davao: (a) City Ordinance 043-02 (the comprehensive anti-smoking ordinance) took effect on Nov. 9. It prohibits smoking, among others, in all public offices and places, and all enclosed establishments. A public place is defined as any place where people usually converge, including malls, parks, plazas, bus terminals, etc. (b) There is a total firecracker and pyrotechnics ban to ensure a "silent night" and injury-free celebration of the Yuletide season.

(c) Also enforced is a total ban on the selling of wine, liquor and other alcoholic beverages after 2 a.m. (d) Selling of cigarettes, liquor, wine and other alcoholic beverages to minors is also prohibited. (e) The bringing of long firearms, especially by politicians and their bodyguards, is also prohibited. (e) Still being deliberated by the city council are resolutions banning the advertisement of cigarettes and the comprehensive anti-smoke belching law. And, yes, do not allow your pet dogs to stray around, it is banned, too. Otherwise the vigilante Davao Dog Squad (DDS) may terminate your canines with extreme prejudice.

* * *

Comments at karlos_z23@hotmail.com or kar_laws@yahoo.com

Iraq blinks as owls prevail over hawks and doves

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

THE WORLD breathed a collective sigh of relief last week as Iraq accepted a tough new UN Security Council resolution demanding full cooperation on its weapons programs, or else. Joseph Nye, dean of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, had a very interesting explanation for this hopeful turn of events over a white hot issue that has polarized policymakers, pundits and ordinary people all over the world. He says that the owls have prevailed over the hawks and doves. But what is the meaning of this metaphor?

At one extreme are the "doves." They have launched anti-war protests that recall the Vietnam era peace movements. Their mantra of nonviolence is a bromide that soothes the soul but ignores the body of evidence produced by the UN arms inspectors through a decade of playing an Iraqi game of hide-and-go-seek. Doves claim that the United States is just interested in Iraqi oil and is pushing its weight around because the war on terrorism is not getting anywhere fast. They accuse the hawks of a lust for war that will only harm civilians in Iraq. Their current patron saint is former US President and Nobel Peace Laureate, Jimmy Carter, who says the world sees the United States as an arrogant nation. Before the recent unanimous vote to support the tough new US-sponsored resolution, which amounts to an ultimatum, the doves were all for multilateralism, maybe because one or more of the permanent members of the Security Council was expected to veto the resolution anyway. Doves are clearly disappointed as one by one, France, Russia and China fell in step with the United States, as did Syria, representing Arab countries in the Mideast.

On the other hand, "hawks" have been urging a unilateral war on Iraq, with or without the United Nations. For example, Kenneth Pollack, former National Security Council director under Bill Clinton, argues that an outright invasion of Iraq is better undertaken now, rather than later. He says, in a new book, that it will be far more perilous once Iraq acquires operational and deliverable nuclear weapons with which to blackmail the Middle East and the world. His resonates with US officials such as Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and deputy Paul Wolfowitz. Hawks believe the UN Charter does not constrain any nation from taking unilateral action in self-defense, even preemptively. But they do seem disappointed because the new resolution makes war preparations look premature. They want a reason to declare Iraq in "material breach" and so deserving of its "serious consequences." They see the resolution as only delaying an inevitable conflict. They accuse the doves of adopting the same policy of appeasement that allowed Adolf Hitler to turn Germany into the Third Reich and plunged the world into war.

US President George W. Bush is usually put in the column of the hawks. After all, he has been relentless in demanding that Saddam disarm or be overthrown. Yet for a warmongering hawk, he hasn't actually done much more than talk, first to the UN General Assembly on Sept. 12, then to the US electorate all throughout the election campaign. He seems to have won in both venues—first with the Republican control of the US Congress, then shortly after that with the Security Council's stunning unanimous vote, and then quick capitulation by Iraq, at least for now.

Meanwhile, the "owls" in Dr. Nye's picturesque categorization, are neither hawks nor doves, with US Secretary Colin Powell being the quintessential owl. Despite being conventionally accused of doveliness, Powell has actually been supporting war readiness in case all diplomacy fails. He has more military experience than Rumsfeld, Wolfowitz and Bush put together. I would add Bush's female National Security Adviser, Dr. Condoleeza Rice to Nye's list of owls.

Neither hawk nor dove, the owls in the US administration want to combine the determination of the hawks with the moral stamina of the doves. They seek to convince both sides that it is the madman in Baghdad that is the common enemy and not each other. For the owls, if there is to be war, the United States would have the moral high ground as part of an alliance with other countries. For them, it is freedom, democracy and international security that are nonnegotiable, whereas savage war and peaceful diplomacy are merely means to those ends. As such, neither is justifiable in and of themselves. Neither war nor peace is an inherent virtue. Neither, because both war freaks and peaceniks could cause the death of millions of innocent lives and the destruction of our civilization, if the situation is not handled right.

Powell and Rice deserve a lot of credit for walking a tightrope between the opposing camps. By the way, they are both African-Americans, but they certainly don't deserve the uncharitable and unjust insults hurled at them by racists and ideologists, which surprisingly includes some writers in this newspaper and in the radical, liberal fringe in America. I have read shameful epithets calling Powell and Dr. Rice "Tontos to George W. Bush's Lone Ranger," or "lackeys of the White Man," coming from people who normally know better, but are no better than the prejudiced bigots that made slavery the shame of America's past.

If and when the Philippines takes a rightful place as Asia's representative in the United Nations Security Council, I hope we will have learned something from the wisdom, nobility and integrity of these two fine African-Americans, who are an outstanding credit to their race. And I do mean the human race.

* * *

Comments to deanjbocobo@yahoo.com

Street children

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

THE PHOTO was meant to invite attention, but it was the caption that attracted comments from the readers instead.

Last Nov. 9, the INQUIRER published on its front page the picture of two street children hugging each other amid a thunderstorm that hit Metro Manila. The older child had the look of despair on her face. The younger child appeared bewildered by the sudden downpour.

The photo caption read: "Small comfort, big traffic jam. Suddenly, a thunderstorm struck yesterday afternoon, and these street urchins could only cling to each other for warmth and comfort. But they were the lucky ones. Motorists especially on Edsa from Quezon City to Ayala Avenue in Makati were stuck in a traffic gridlock that lasted till way past 8 last night."

The news about the thunderstorm was carried in an inside page of the newspaper. The front page that day focused on the rumored revamp of the Cabinet and President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision not to extend the term of office of AFP Chief of Staff Benjamin Defensor.

Some readers did not like the irony that the words "But they were the lucky ones" intended to convey. They said it added insult to the injury being suffered by the children who call the streets home.

The letter of Andrew Caudal of Texas, USA, best reflects the sentiments of the readers who found the photo caption, to quote, "insensitive, out of bounds."

He wrote: "I am writing to express disgust at the callous caption accompanying your Nov. 8 front-page photo of two very young street children clinging to each other in the rain. The photo is poignant.

"However, the caption called the children 'the lucky ones' compared to those who were struck in traffic until 8 p.m. Those stuck in traffic because of the rain have at least three things to be thankful for:

- "A job which they were coming home from.
- "Transportation which protected them from the weather.
- "A house to go home to.

"The street children in your photo, like thousands of others who live in the streets, have none of the above. I am sure they would have been happy to trade places with any of the 'unlucky ones' who were sitting in their cars.

"Shame on you! Please be sensitive next time."

Regrets

The moment I saw that caption, I knew there was something wrong with it. Comparing the problems of street waifs to the traffic woes of the motorists just doesn't wash. There is no way the two can be put on the same plane and accorded equitable treatment.

I share the readers' sentiments. I think the caption was a disservice to thousands of our countrymen who are forced by financial hardships to use the streets as the place to sleep, eat and raise their families. I am sure the parents of those street children would grab at the opportunity of suffering instead the problems of the motorists stuck in that horrible Friday traffic.

After reading the readers' letters, the editor in chief was quick to concede the validity of their complaints. The thoughts sought to be conveyed by the caption could have been couched in words that could have taken into consideration the sad plight of the street children.

Shame on us, indeed.

Accordingly, the INQUIRER apologizes to the readers for the error. It regrets the pain the caption may have caused the underprivileged members of our society.

Mea culpa. Mea culpa.

Daily Gospel

Margarita Ramirez of Las Piñas City sent a letter that I believe the elderly patrons of the INQUIRER would find common cause with. She expressed her dismay over the way the newspaper has been treating her favorite feature: Daily Gospel.

She wrote: "I have noticed that lately the letters in the Daily Gospel are becoming smaller and smaller. Don't you think that more elderly people, like myself, read the Gospel? Elderly people tend to have weak eyes unlike younger people who have good eyes!

"Of course, the news above it may be of importance but I think the Gospel of the Lord is even more important, but the way the INQUIRER publishes it, it appears you do not really try to enlighten the people. If you don't look for it, you may not even notice it's there.

"As an elderly person with weak eyes, I implore you to please try to print the Daily Gospel in bigger letters that won't give us a headache. And please publish it in the same section so that we won't have to be scouting for it."

Until I got this letter, I was under the impression that the Daily Gospel appeared daily and in the same spot in the newspaper. The religious material is in the nature of a public service of the INQUIRER to readers who want spiritual guidance as they go through the news and articles about the events and issues of the day.

I endorsed the reader's complaint to the head of the newspaper production staff and he promised to institute measures that will make the reading habit of the spiritually inclined readers, not only the elderly ones, more pleasant.

* * *

Calling all members of the Upsilon Sigma Phi fraternity of the University of the Philippines. The Ninth Congress of the fraternity will be held on Dec. 6 and 7 at the Alumni Center of the UP Diliman campus.

For more details, resident and alumni members can call up the Upsilon secretariat at 634-2427 or 638-7642 local 3[illegible] or log on at www.upsilon.com.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

THEY SAID

War conditions

"Under war conditions even the Europeans were quite ready to dispense with human rights. And already you see the great proponents of human rights have not hesitated to detain people, ask questions, examine them and humiliate them."

—Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad on measures to prevent terrorist attacks

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Women's realities and abortion

I HAVE noticed much reluctance and defensiveness in the way abortion rights were discussed in recent newspaper columns and letters to the editor. Much about reproductive rights is also misunderstood. Reproductive rights include the woman's right to prevent pregnancy and to terminate her pregnancy. I will not skirt the issue and say that abortion is indeed a part of it.

In upholding these rights, legislators are counted upon to show impartiality in the face of the massive disinformation campaign launched by Catholic fundamentalists who purposely appeal to morals and religious devotion and allegiance, which the state must be dissociated from. Catholic fundamentalists have turned a blind eye to the realities women face today. Women are dying because they are forced to resort to clandestine, illegal and unsafe abortion to terminate their unwanted pregnancies.

The Philippines is one of a few predominantly Catholic countries where Catholic dogma has prevailed in law. It has one of the most restrictive abortion laws in the world—even penalizing the woman who undergoes abortion. And it is one of the remaining countries in the world that deny emergency contraception, specifically, levonorgestrel. One glaring example is the outdated Revised Penal Code provision penalizing the woman and the person assisting the woman for undergoing abortion. Another example is the 1987 constitutional provision equally protecting the life of the mother and the life of the unborn. This particular provision was not in the 1935 and the 1973 Philippine Constitutions. It is unfortunate that the religious commissioners during the 1986 Constitutional Commission had used their position to insert this provision in our Constitution—a blatant violation of the principle of separation of church and state. We cannot let fundamentalist Catholics and any other religion to perpetuate the imposition of their morals and religion in our law.

To those who are imposing their fundamentalist morals and religion, I will pose these questions: If you or your daughter were raped, would you or your daughter bear that child even if it was not your or your daughter's choice to get pregnant? If you already have several children and are hard up with money and your husband forces you to have sex, will you bear that child even if it was not your choice to be pregnant?

If we are to engender women's reproductive rights and we are to be compassionate and responsive to women's realities, then women's right to safe and legal abortion as well as right to emergency contraception should be recognized and protected by Philippine law.

—CLARA RITA A. PADILLA,
14th Floor, 120 Wall St.,
New York City

A banking matter

CALOOCAN Rep. Edgar Erice has filed House Bill No. 4005 after observing that all banks are charging P50 to P100 per month for failure to maintain the required minimum balance or for being dormant.

The move of Erice is commendable. It will benefit small depositors. In 1992, Manila Rep. Nestor Ponce introduced HB No. 1638 on the subject but I don't know what happened. This malpractice of greedy banks is contrary to the provision of the Civil Code as decided by the Supreme Court, to wit:

"Bank deposits are in the nature of irregular deposits. They are really loans because they earn interest. All kinds of deposits whether fixed, savings or current are treated as loans." Article 1980, Civil Code of the Philippines (Gullas vs PNB 62 Phil. 519)

Therefore, with the high court ruling, the internal policy of every bank violates Article 1980 of the Civil Code thus, usurping congressional power of amendment. This is a unique case of depositors (creditors) being punished by the depository banks (debtors).

—ELIGIO M. PASTORIN,
92 Paraiso St.,
Parang, Marikina City

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Bane or boon of globalization

THERE are plenty of ironic things happening in the agricultural sector of the country nowadays. The news report titled, "'Baguio vegetables' come from Australia" (PDI, 10/2/02) is proof of this. From the title alone, one is intrigued as to why a productive province like Baguio would have to import vegetables.

Another strange thing is that Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor is allowing these import transactions, although he had stated that the top 14 companies should be reminded of their corporate social responsibility. And the strangest thing is that President Macapagal-Arroyo, who campaigns for economic stability, supports trade liberalization.

These strange things must immediately be stopped! Import transactions are continuously destroying us, they are destroying our own local farmers, encouraging us to buy imported goods and contribute to our economic crisis.

Because foreign goods are lower priced, most of our producers are forced to also sell their products at lower prices than their production costs. Another is that consumers are pushed to buy foreign products because of their affordability and abundant supply.

—FELYN ONG,
15 A. Juan St.,
San Juan, Metro Manila

Abadia on his record

I READ with deep sadness the column of my friend Mon Tulfo. I believe that Tulfo means well in his fearless quest for truth in journalism but I think his description of my person in terms of my combat record, academic credentials, erudition and facility in the use of the English language, and his insinuation of financial wrongdoings need further clarifications.

My answer to Tulfo's column is devoid of rancor or bitterness in my heart. And I am not driven by any desire to compare my record with anybody as others may be tempted to do.

On the issue of my combat record, I am attaching an enumeration of my combat accomplishments. A couple are near combat encounters but I thought I would just list them because of their significance, like the eyeball confrontation in the PMA with nearly 1,000 cadets in the 1987 coup and with 50 RAM rebels under Capt. Boy Maligalig in the 1989 coup. There were 20 encounters and events and I believe I have amply paid my dues as a soldier.

On the issue of my academic credentials, I graduated magna cum laude in my class, PMA 1962. There is my academic record in the PMA attesting to this fact. I was on the Commandant's List when I finished my CGSC in Forth Leavenworth, Kansas, USA, and I have a master's degree in Public and Business Management from UP and La Salle University. My professor in Quantitive Analysis, Brig. Gen. Tony Lucban (ret.), can perhaps describe my performance as a student. My academic credentials compared to others are not really fantastic but they can stand scrutiny.

On the issue of my erudition and command of the English language, again I admit it is not really superb but my English instructors in high school and the PMA can still be proud of their product. I am attaching an article I wrote and which was published in the INQUIRER titled, "To march or not to march: only in the Philippines."

I am also attaching Appendix C of Amando Doronila's bestseller, "The Fall of Joseph Estrada" which included an article I wrote titled, "Edsa II (From the Inside)." These articles are sufficient indication of my ability to write respectably well in English.

And finally on the issue of financial wrongdoings, I have confronted all the allegations in various fora and to this date, I face no pending judicial action. There was a media demolition job on me before but it failed. I have requested my detractors to stop all these and let me, my family, my relatives and my friends be.

—LISANDRO C. ABADIA
general (ret.)

Books of the Bible

I WISH to correct an item on Nov. 6 regarding the number of books comprising the Old Testament—it's not 45, but 46 (the Catholic version, that is, which is based on the Septuagint, the list used by the Jews who fled to Egypt). The Protestant version has 39 (which is based on the list used by the Jews who remained in Palestine).

It is true that the Bible was written by different people. But these people were guided and inspired by the Holy Spirit (*"kinasihan ng Espiritu Santo"*) and therefore it is believed that God is the author of the Bible.

—LILIA BORLONGAN-ALVAREZ,
206 Maple St., Agro Homes,
Muntinlupa City

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1577, Series of 2002

Indonesia cops name Bali bomber

BALI, Indonesia—Indonesian police investigating the Bali blasts yesterday identified the man who allegedly detonated the bombs that killed nearly 200 people on the resort island last month.

"Dulmatin is from Central Java . . . He is a second-hand car dealer, an electronics expert and his role was to detonate the bombs by cellular phone," Maj. Gen. I Made Mangku Pastika, head of a multinational team searching for the bombers, told a news conference in Bali.

"We know the bombs were operated through a cellular phone, the one who . . . exploded them is him (Dulmatin)."

Police say they do not know Dulmatin's whereabouts and have so far arrested only one man, named Amrozi, who has confessed to involvement in the blasts. Amrozi is the chief suspect in the case and owner of the van containing the powerful bomb that caused most of the deaths.

Pastika said Dulmatin also helped assemble the bombs that tore through Bali's popular Kuta Beach area on Oct. 12, killing many foreign tourists.

Police say the total number of official suspects is now seven. On Sunday they released a combination of sketches and photographs of six of them, all Indonesian.

At the hourlong news conference, police also told how one of the suspects Imam Samudra—known by several aliases and who always wore a hat and often carried a laptop computer bag—remained in Bali for several days after the blast.

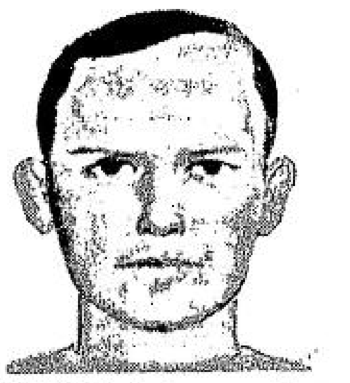
"For four days (after the blast) he stayed (in Bali) looking at us investigating the case," said Pastika, holding up a sketch and passport-sized photograph of Samudra.

"He is also a suspect for the Christmas bombing in Riau, Batam and Jakarta," he added, referring to a series of bombs that exploded in the Indonesian capital and several provinces in 2000.

Police described Samudra as the field coordinator and a chief planner of the attack, deciding on where the bombs would be placed.

Two bombs exploded almost simultaneously. The first bomb was left on a table or chairs near the dance floor at Paddy's Irish Pub. The second, and main blast, occurred across the street in front of the popular Sari club and was concealed in a Mitsubishi van.

Reuters



DULMATIN also known as Amar Usman

REUTERS

Americans see war as inevitable

WASHINGTON—Public opinion polls show Americans now are convinced a US-led attack against Iraq is almost inevitable, as President George W. Bush hails recent advances in stamping out terrorism and the US government makes war preparations at home.

"Our war against terrorists and their supporters is advancing on all fronts," Bush said Saturday in his weekly radio address.

"We're moving aggressively to protect our people and to oppose a great threat to the peace of the world," said Bush, who is pushing a homeland security cabinet post through Congress, where his Republican Party won control of both Senate and House in Nov. 5 elections.

The US government has begun to monitor thousands of Iraqis in the United States, hoping to identify terrorist threats posed by sympathizers of Saddam Hussein in preparation for impending hostilities, the New York Times reported Sunday.

The previously undisclosed intelligence program involves tracking Iraqi citizens and Iraqi-Americans with dual citizenship who are attending American universities or working at private corporations who might pose a risk in the event of a US-led war against Iraq.

Bush spoke Saturday as UN weapons inspectors prepared to leave for Baghdad in the wake of a unanimous UN Security Council approval of a declaration ordering Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to disarm.

"Our goal is not merely the return of inspectors to Iraq," he said. "Our goal is the disarmament of Iraq."

A public opinion poll released Saturday show 63 percent of Americans believe war with Iraq is inevitable while less than one-third said a peaceful solution is possible.

However, 47 percent of the 1,006 of those polled for Time-CNN said US troops should not invade Iraq without UN approval.

About 83 percent believed that Osama bin Laden, leader of al-Qaida, is still alive.

That raised concerns of members of Congress.

"We haven't found Bin Laden. We haven't made any real progress in many of the other areas involving the key elements of al-Qaida," Senate Democratic Majority Leader Tom Daschle said.

"They continue to be as great a threat today as they were a year and a half ago. So by what measure can we say this has been successful so far?" said Daschle, whose party loses the Senate majority in January.

AFP

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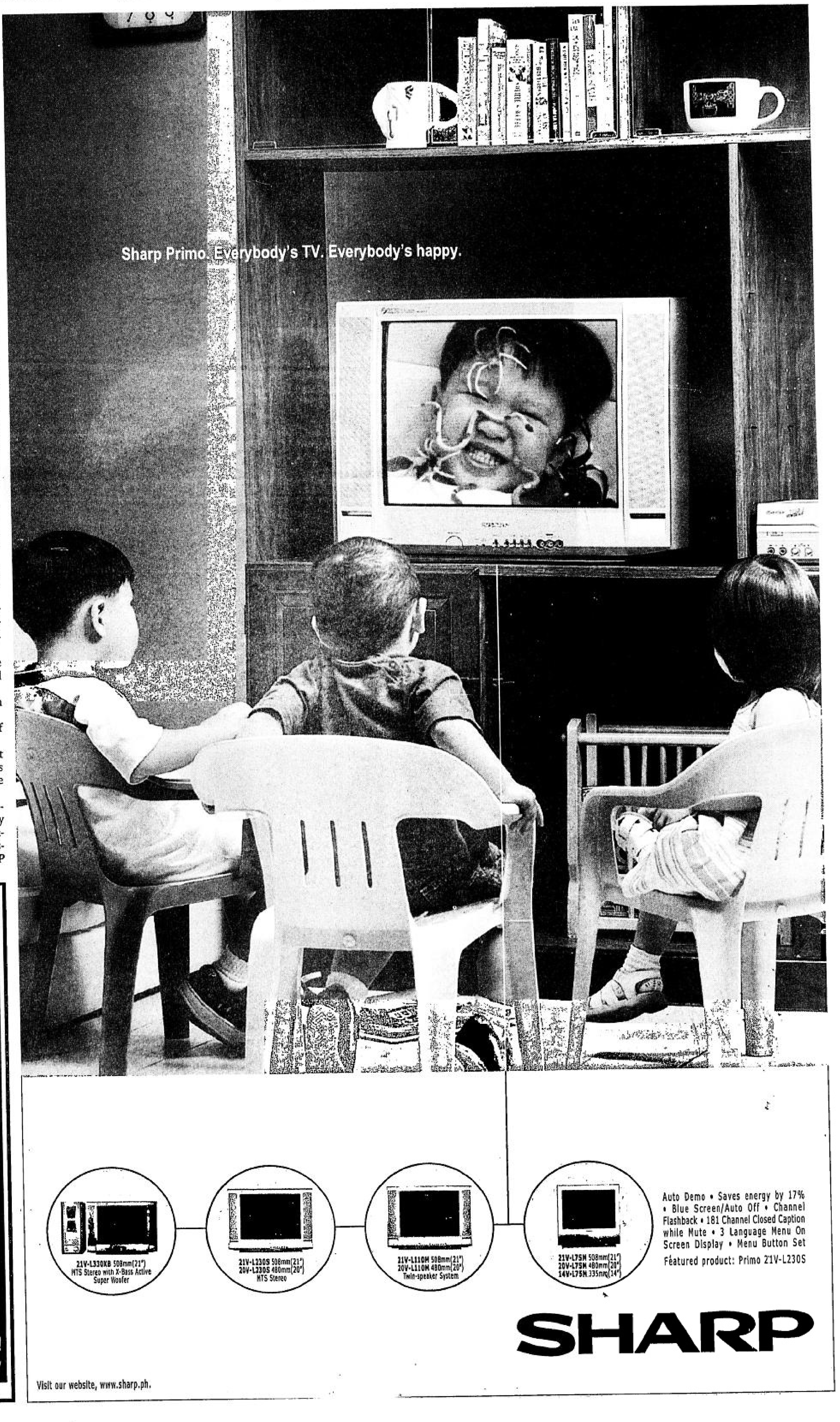

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Israeli troops take over Hebron, demolish homes

JERUSALEM—Israeli troops massed in the West Bank city of Hebron early Sunday, arresting Palestinians and restraining angry Jewish settlers after an ambush that killed 12 Israeli security forces ignited tensions anew just as the United States was working to calm things down.

Palestinian residents of Hebron awoke to a strict curfew Sunday, with Israeli tanks patrolling most streets in both the Israeli and Palestinian sides of the city.

Israeli Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday that the peace agreement outlining the division of control in the city—which he had signed as prime minister in 1997—was in effect canceled due to Palestinian attacks there.

Jewish settlers in the volatile city called for revenge at a rally Saturday night, recalling past rampages through Palestinian neighborhoods, after the Israeli forces were killed a day earlier when gunmen used Jewish worshippers to lure the forces into a lethal trap.

Israeli soldiers arrested on Sunday Palestinian suspects and relatives of the three gunmen, who were killed in the Friday shootout. The Israelis destroyed at least two houses and uprooted an olive grove the gunmen used as cover. The houses belonged to militants of Islamic Jihad, the group that took responsibility for the attack.

Israeli forces closed a liaison office in Hebron, ordering Palestinian officers who coordinated activities with Israelis to leave, Army Radio reported.

Hebron is a tense flashpoint, the only West Bank city divided into Israeli and Palestinian-controlled zones. Israeli soldiers control the city center where about 450 Jewish settlers, including many extremists, live in the midst of more than 100,000 Palestinians, many of them fundamentalist Muslims. Tanks were located in all sections of the city Sunday.

Violence erupts frequently. Palestinian gunmen fire at the Jewish enclaves from hilltops on their side of the city. Settlers often rampage through the Palestinian outdoor market, overturning vegetable stands, damaging buildings and taunting residents.

In 1994, an American-born Jewish settler killed 29 Muslim worshippers at the city's hotly disputed holy site, the tomb of the biblical Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and three of their wives. In 1929 and 1936, Arabs massacred Hebron's Jewish residents.

The US Department of State denounced the Friday ambush as a "heinous crime." It came just after a mission by a state department official, David Satterfield, who met with Israelis and Palestinians to discuss a blueprint for a peace agreement.

The blueprint was already on the back burner before the bloody ambush. Israel was concentrating on bitter campaign for Jan. 28 elections after the dovish Labor Party pulled out of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government. Its top ministers were replaced by hawks: former Premier Benjamin Netanyahu as foreign minister and just-retired Army chief Shaul Mofaz as defense minister.

Mofaz talked by telephone to US Secretary of State Colin Powell and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Saturday, Mofaz's office said, but he had no words of reassurance for them.

The statement said Mofaz blamed the Palestinian Authority, led by Yasser Arafat, for the attack, though the militant Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility.

"They are all trying to perpetrate horrific attacks," Mofaz said, according to the statement. Israel will "do whatever is necessary to protect its citizens." *AP*

ISRAELI border police prevent demonstrators from heading toward Arab homes during a protest rally near the site of an attack on Israeli troops and settlers in the West Bank town of Hebron on Saturday. AP

WORLDBRIEFS

Shrinking world

BEIJING—China basked in praise from the world's dwindling brotherhood of communist nations Sunday, releasing congratulatory messages from North Korea and Vietnam about its new top man and trumpeting a promise from Cuba's Fidel Castro to bring the two countries even closer. But Hu Jintao's ascent to the top of the Communist Party of China last week after years of playing second fiddle to leader Jiang Zemin didn't immediately make him a household figure: One major bookstore in the capital said Sunday it had no material available on Hu at all. Tellingly, Jiang also received prominent plaudits in state media Sunday. Though he ceded the top party post to Hu, Jiang remains president until March and was reelected to head the powerful military commission Friday. Like his predecessor Deng Xiaoping, Jiang is expected to wield formidable power in retirement. *AP*

Sentence revised

TEHRAN—Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has ordered the judiciary to revise a death sentence it handed down on Hashem Aghajari, a prominent pro-reform academic accused of blasphemy, a government official announced Sunday. Parliamentary Speaker Mehdi Karubi told parliament that the supreme leader had given the order in response to an appeal from a group of university professors. The controversial verdict, handed down by a hardline court in the western city of Hamedan, has sparked protests from students, senior government officials and even some prominent conservatives. Aghajari, a history lecturer and political activist who lost a leg in the 1980-1988 conflict, was sentenced to hang after his call for a reform of Iran's state Shiite Muslim religion was deemed blasphemous. *AFP*

Quakes shake Japan

TOKYO—Two strong earthquakes with preliminary magnitudes of 4.6 and 6.9 rocked Japan in quick succession Sunday. There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries. The larger of the two was centered 410 km below the seabed off the coast of Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost island, the Meteorological Agency reported. The temblor, which struck at 1:55 p.m., was strongly felt throughout the eastern part of Hokkaido as well as in neighboring Aomori prefecture. Seven minutes earlier, a fairly strong quake shook in Ishikawa and Toyama prefectures (state) in central Japan. Described as "quite shallow" by the agency, it was felt in a number of small towns in the Kaga region of Ishikawa. *AP*

Elephant terror

HANOI—A herd of wild elephants is terrorizing villagers and destroying agricultural land in their search for food in central Vietnam. Over the past fortnight, as many as 13 elephants have been hanging around the Chu M'Lan commune in the impoverished Dak Lak province, trampling rice fields and maize crops, the state-run Quan Doi Nhan Dan newspaper said Sunday. The elephants have sparked panic among local inhabitants whose lives could be threatened unless preventative measures are taken, it warned. Authorities in Ea Sup district have instructed farmers to avoid the area, many of whom have prematurely harvested their crops before they are destroyed. *AFP*

Cops into smuggling

KUALA LUMPUR—Authorities are investigating claims that senior police officials responsible for anti-smuggling operations used police trucks to smuggle and distribute Thai-produced rice in Malaysia, officials and news reports said Sunday. The police officers, who were part of more than 2,000 personnel patrolling Malaysia's northern border with Thailand, allegedly helped sell the smuggled rice to Malaysian buyers for large profits, a federal police spokesperson said on customary condition of anonymity. Deputy Inspector-General of Police Jamil Johari said a disciplinary probe was under way and stern action would be taken against those involved, the Sunday Star newspaper reported. The newspaper said authorities discovered the conspiracy after several police trucks laden with smuggled rice were inspected at an anti-smuggling checkpoint in northern Malaysia recently. *AP*

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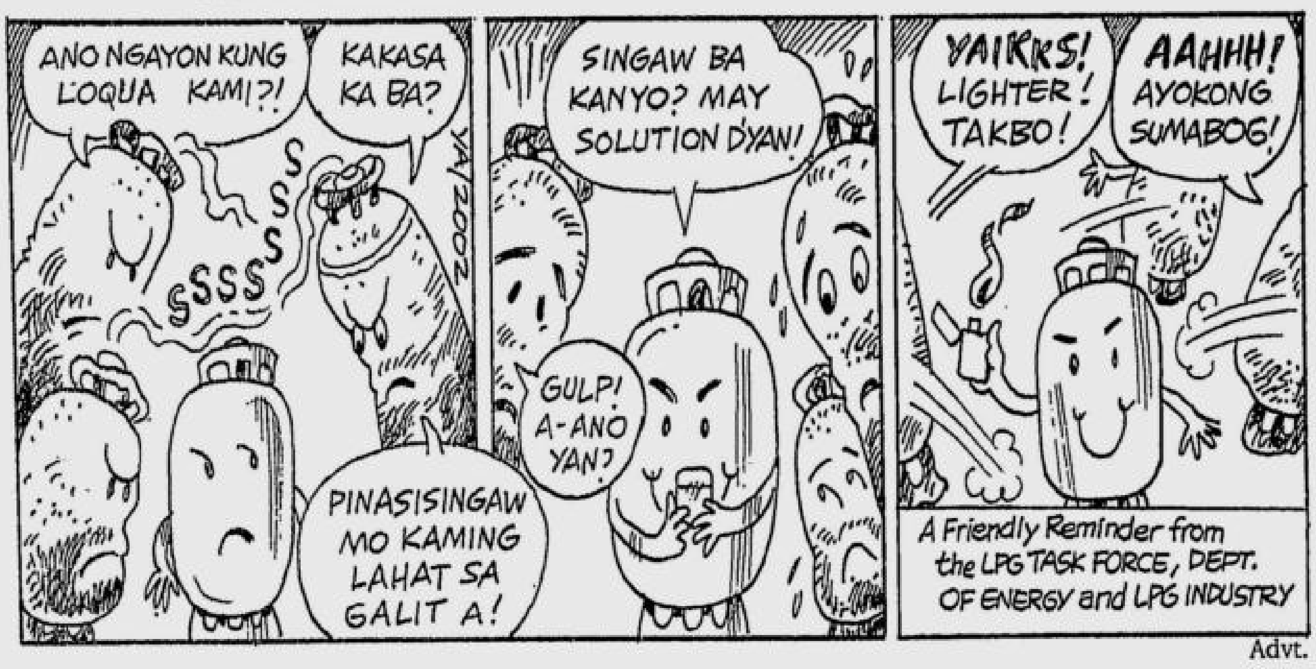
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Chair of House amendments body pushes 'Cha-cha'

NAGA CITY—Congress is bracing for constitutional amendments next year, and in February, the House and the Senate would transform themselves into a constituent assembly, a congressman said here Saturday.

Rep. Antonio Eduardo Nachura, House committee on constitutional amendments chair, said it would only take six to seven months to prepare the amendments to be submitted in a plebiscite.

"We can call Congress to sit as constituent assembly in February and by October or November next year, the amendments are ready to be submitted to the people in a plebiscite," Nachura added.

He said that the "commonly suggested amendments" include literacy qualification for the Office of the President and other elective officials, a change in the form of government from presidential to parliamentary or a federal system and economic reforms.

Nachura added that there is a strong move from local officials to extend the terms of office of public officials from three years to four or five years.

He defined the amendments in economic reforms as "making an investment climate favorable to foreign investors which in the process the ownership of land, media, advertising, etc. would be amended."

Foreign ownership

When asked by the INQUIRER, Nachura confirmed that the economic amendments pertain to the abrogation of 40 percent foreign ownership provision in several industries, which the Constitution has set.

But he said the committee still has to collate the results of the consultations held all over the country. A consultation was held here last Saturday.

Nachura said the national consultations will wind up on Wednesday in Quezon City and the committee will collate the data.

"Our timetable really calls for me, as chairman of the committee on constitutional amendments, to submit the committee report before the end of the year," he said.

Nachura said before Congress goes on a Christmas vacation he hopes that the committee report has already been discussed and debated upon in plenary.

He said that if there is a corresponding initiative in the Senate, a joint resolution calling for constitutional amendments could be done in January.

Nachura said Sen. Edgardo Angara heads the committee in the Senate that initiates constitutional amendments.

But the constitutional amendments this time do not sit well with another congressman.

Opponent

Rep. Sulpicio Roco Jr., Camarines Sur second district representative, opposes the moves to amend the Constitution amid more pressing issues like budget deficit and terrorism.

Roco said the congressmen could do justice to the mandate the people entrusted to them if they attend to legislation that addresses the economic issues that hound the country now.

He said that transforming Congress into a constituent assembly would use up precious time otherwise spent for legislating measures that address the economic woes besetting the nation.

Nachura said the House, with the majority of members conforming to constitutional amendments, would balance its time to allow other legislation to proceed while it discusses the constitutional amendments.

He said he would propose that Congress sit as a legislative body on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and as a constituent assembly on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

A member of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) here criticized the constitutional amendments through constituent assembly as inefficient.

Lawyer Carlos Cortez said the 1987 Constitution needs total revision and a constitutional convention is more appropriate.

Cortez said the members of the constitutional convention to whom the people would entrust the task of revising the Constitution could do the job independent of vested interests.

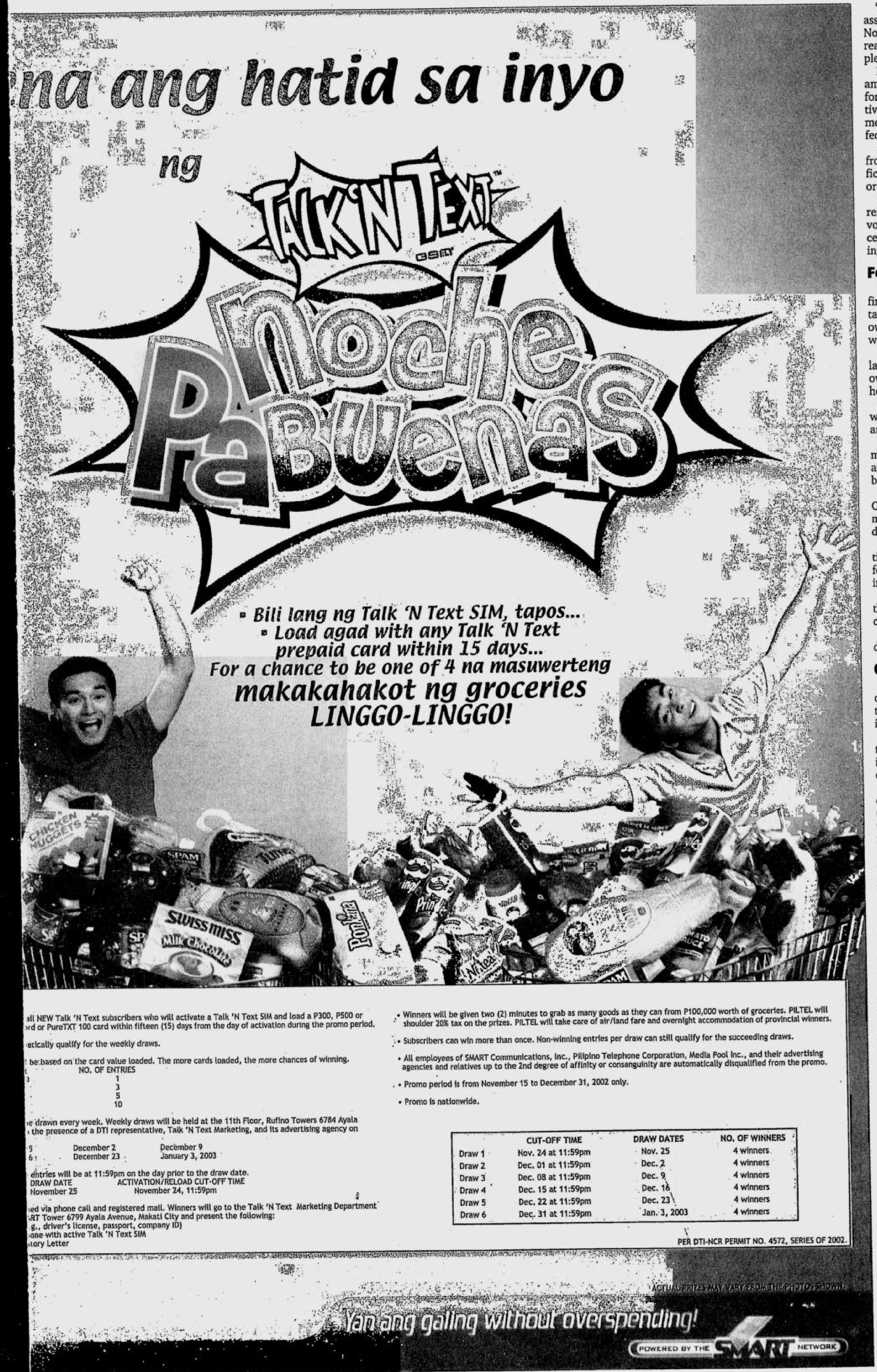
First mode

Nachura said Article 17 of the 1987 Constitution provides that the first mode of amending the Constitution is "through Congress sitting as a constituent assembly."

"Well, the people elected the congressmen, since there is an assumption that the people know what the Constitution provides, the people also voted the congressmen not to simply serve as their representatives in the law-making body, but potentially, to sit as a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution," he said.

Nachura, a recognized constitutionalist, reiterated that the 1935, 1973 and 1987 Constitutions all provided that the first mode of amendment is through constituent assembly.

However, he said, the process of constitutional amendments requires consultation and support from the public. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*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Draw 4	Dec. 15 at 11:59pm	Dec. 16	4 winners
Draw 5	Dec. 22 at 11:59pm	Dec. 23	4 winners
Draw 6	Dec. 31 at 11:59pm	Jan. 3, 2003	4 winners

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 4572, SERIES OF 2002.

Suspected pedophile held

OLONGAPO CITY—Police here arrested a 61-year-old American tourist on Wednesday after two teenagers told investigators that the man had molested them. Reports here said policemen were conducting patrol operations when they saw the tourist taking pictures of the two teenagers, aged 14 and 15, who were swimming at the Baloy Beach in Barangay Barretto here. Police invited the suspect and the two teenagers for questioning on suspicion that the American was a pedophile. During the interview, the teenagers admitted to police that the suspect molested them in a motel in the city. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Increase in number of addicts alarms social welfare officials

BAGUIO CITY—Officials of the local anti-illegal drug council and the city social welfare office said the number of illegal drug victims being referred to their offices is alarming and has resulted in the congestion of the city's temporary rehabilitation facility.

Betty Fangasan, city social welfare officer, said 40 victims of drug abuse are being treated at the rehabilitation center that opened in June.

The victims are housed in the Silungan Center of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, which was converted into a temporary drug rehabilitation center.

Fangasan said the center, which was intended to house rescued street children, cannot accommodate the increasing number of drug victims.

"(That is why) we are strongly encouraging home rehabilitation. We believe that the best people that could help them are still their families," Fangasan said.

She said the Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Council (Badac), which monitors drug abuse victims in the city's 128 barangays, referred most of the drug abuse victims to the rehabilitation center.

Fangasan said they are monitoring at least six barangays in the city because of activities of illegal drug pushers and users there.

The victims in the center are between 15 and 22 years old. Seventeen of them are students while the rest are out-of-school youths. Most of them were caught smoking marijuana.

The war on drug appears to be scoring victory elsewhere.

In Masantol, Pampanga, police on Friday arrested four suspected illegal drug pushers who had been victimizing children in Barangay San Isidro, the town's biggest village.

Chief Insp. Remegio Layug, Masantol police chief, identified the suspects as Richard Yambao and brothers Perry, Joey and Michael Meneses.

"More than half (of the barangay's 5,000 residents) are hooked on drugs because of them," Layug told reporters.

"They sold shabu even to children to rule the entire village. At times, they gave it for free to create the image that they were sort of Robin Hoods," Layug said.

He said the suspects' arrest, which came after several months of futile operations, was met with jubilation by parents and village officials.

Residents and officials of San Isidro had criticized local policemen for their supposed inaction on the village's drug problem.

Police said Yambao had evaded arrest several times while Joey was on probation for an illegal drug charge.

Layug said the group had been operating in San Isidro, their base, for almost five years now. He said policemen discovered a drug lair fortified with metal bars and most of its gates were padlocked. The compound had several strategic exit paths.

At least 0.22 grams of shabu sealed in seven plastic sachets were recovered from the suspects.

Layug said results from the laboratory examinations conducted by the regional police's crime laboratory showed that the suspects were positive for shabu use, Layug said. *Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Cadet's rifle goes off during parade at PMA

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—A Philippine Military Academy cadet, standing in formation with the rest of the PMA cadet corps, accidentally fired his rifle during a special parade and review that honored PMA Class 1972 on Saturday.

"The PMA has regulations for almost every imaginable mistake, but this (accidental firing) earns the most unusual (mistake) yet," admitted Maj. Edgard Arevalo, PMA spokesperson.

Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, PMA superintendent and president of PMA Masigasig Class of 1972, said no cadet rifles are armed with live bullets, a safety feature that is strictly supervised by the academy's tactical officers.

The other recorded goof occurred in 1998, when a marching cadet accidentally abandoned a shoe in full view of a visiting dignitary, embarrassing the whole PMA command.

But the cadet's foul up failed to dampen the spirits of Class 1972, which counts among its members the former officials and members of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM).

Police and military generals and government officials made up the 26 members of Class 1972 who attended Saturday's parade.

Among them were Col. Billy Bibit, a customs officer based in Cebu City; Pangasinan Rep. Amado Espino; Maj. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio, AFP deputy chief of staff for education and training; and Maj. Gen. Generoso Senga, commanding general of the Army's 6th Infantry Division.

Except for a few queries, the Class 1972 members shrugged off the error as "another one of the PMA's funny stories."

The cadet, whose identity was withheld, pulled his rifle's trigger during the parade exercise's traditional rifle inspection. "The bullet was a blank. We don't use live armaments here," Adan assured reporters.

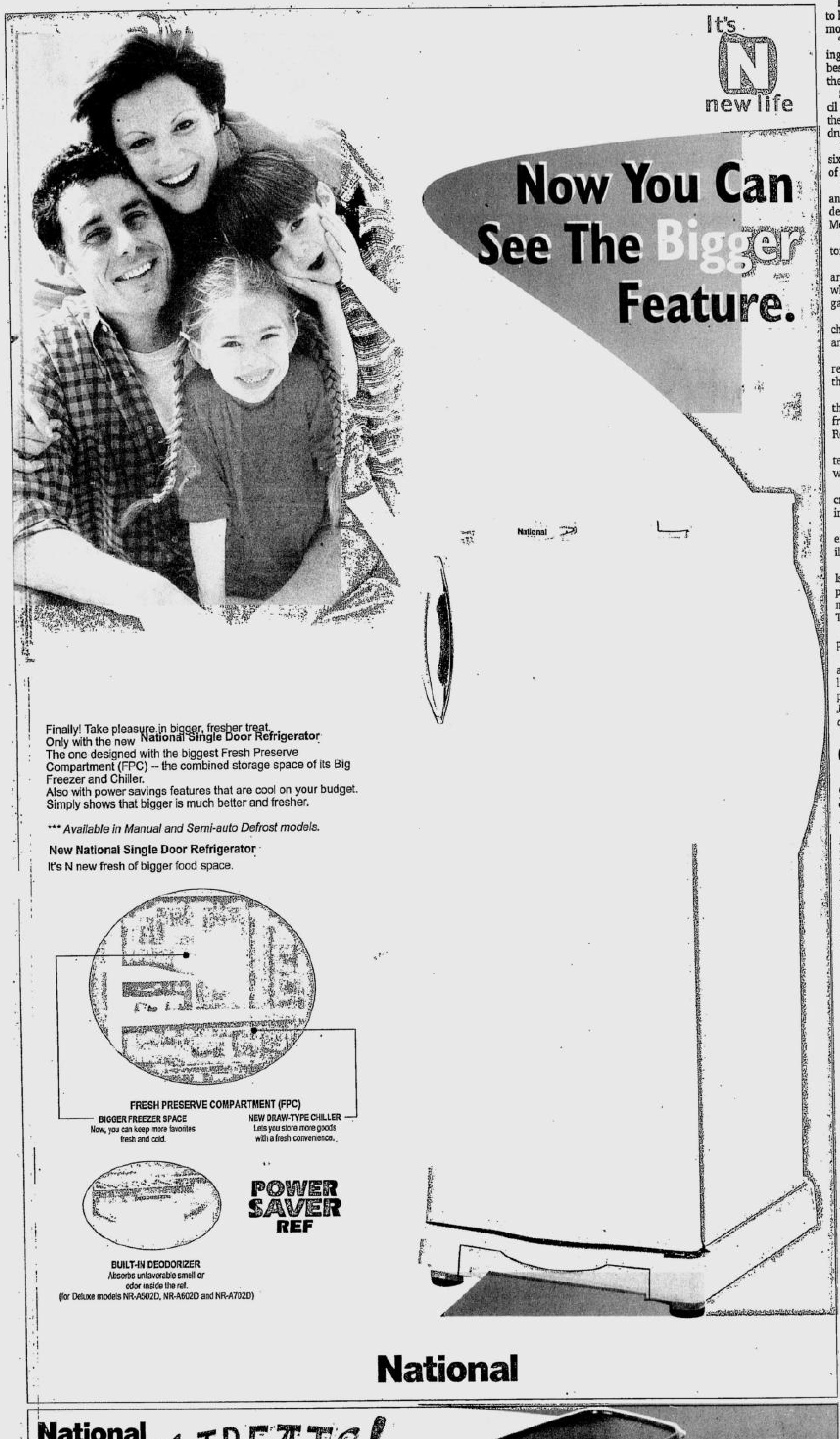
As soon as the shot rang out, PMA's tactical officers immediately scrambled about in an attempt to determine why the rifle was armed. "This is an (example) of poor gun handling," one of the officers was overheard as saying.

Adan was later advised that the rifle might have been used in an earlier military exhibition called the "Army Show."

The visiting Class 1972 members were asked to view a 25-minute theatrical scenario of a hostage-taking incident, which Army troopers were expected to address.

A PMA officer told Adan that the rifle used by one of the show's "terrorists" could have been released to the cadet, who marched for Class 1972 a few minutes after the performance.

Adan said the erring cadet would be punished and would earn demerits for embarrassing the academy. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*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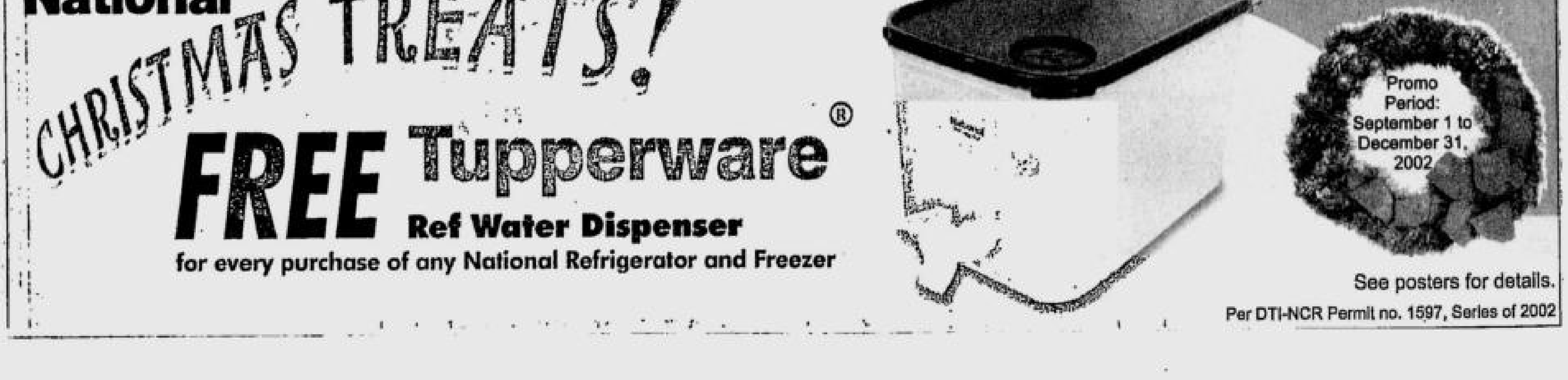
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Raid on warehouse yields thousands of fake products

OPERATIVES of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) raided another warehouse, this time in Bulacan, and seized thousands of counterfeit Chanel products, including perfume, brand name blue jeans and imitation handbags.

The Friday raid, the second conducted by the NBI in two months, on a rented warehouse in this capital town yielded over 6,000 bottles of fake Chanel perfume, 5,000 pairs of imitation jeans and over 1,000 handbags.

The counterfeit products are believed to have come from China and brought to the Philippines for shipment to Australia.

First raid

Sometime in September, NBI agents swooped down on a warehouse in Taguig and seized millions of pesos worth of fake Chanel perfume.

The NBI is still hot on the track for an overstaying Chinese national and his Filipino businessman-partner who are believed to be behind the illegal shipment and domestic sale of the products.

Chanel USA has taken an aggressive position against imitation products due to potential health hazards they pose on unsuspecting consumers.

War on fakes

Saying that Chanel is bent on protecting its patrons, its officials in a statement warned consumers against buying counterfeit products. "You can never be sure what these impostors are putting into these fake items," a Chanel representative in Manila said.

The Philippines is signatory to international agreements that are aimed at fighting international piracy.

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NEW TITLES Sen. Ralph Recto (second from left) and Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza distribute land titles for a model agrarian reform farm in Batangas covering at least 171 hectares. At least 191 farmers received titles to parcels of land in the model farm.
PHOTO COURTESY OF DAR

World Bank opens library in Cotabato City campus

COTABATO CITY—A World Bank (WB) library was formally opened at the Notre Dame University (NDU) here on Friday to allow the public to know "the extensive development publications of WB projects."

WB library in-charge Sonia de la Cruz said NDU is just one of the repositories of data and information regarding WB-initiated activities and projects on infrastructure, commerce and trade, livelihood assistance and cultural exchanges.

NDU president Ramon Bernabe welcomed the entry of WB-related reading materials, including compact discs and video tapes, made available to students and the public.

During the inaugural blessing of the WB library room, which was attended by government officials, businessmen and WB representatives led by country director Robert Vance Pulley, Bernabe said NDU was just one of the selected universities in the country to have the WB library.

WB intends to establish eight libraries, the rest of which are located in Luzon and the Visayas. In Mindanao, apart from NDU, the other WB libraries could be found at the University of Southeastern Philippines in Davao City and Western Mindanao State University in Zamboanga City, De la Cruz said. *Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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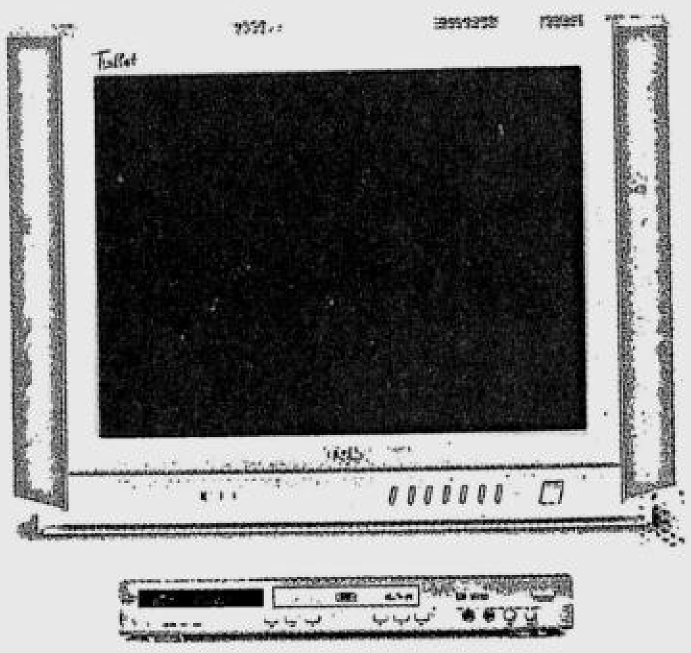

OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

18 November 2002

HER EXCELLENCY
PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
Malacañan
Manila

Re: **PETITION TO IMPLEMENT THE LONG MANDATED PRIVATIZATION OF THE PNOC SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT CORPORATION [PSTC], AND TO HALT PSTC'S ILLEGAL EXPANSION VIA ANOMALOUS AND DUBIOUS BIDDINGS**

DEAR **PRESIDENT ARROYO**:

WE, THE MEMBER-COMPANIES OF THE PHILIPPINE PETROLEUM SEA TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION INC. [**PHILPESTA**], A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION ENVISAGED TO PROMOTE DOMESTIC SHIPPING, MARITIME SAFETY AND PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT, WRITE YOUR EXCELLENCY CONCERNING THE ABOVE MATTER.

RECENTLY, PHILPESTA HAS OBTAINED PHOTOCOPIES OF PSTC'S NOTICES OF BIDDING OF TWO (2) PETROLEUM TANKERS, ONE FOR TIME-CHARTER AND THE OTHER ONE FOR PURCHASE. BOTH OF WHICH ARE SURREPTITIOUSLY SET IN NOVEMBER 2002.

HOWEVER, WE RESPECTFULLY BELIEVE THAT THE ABOVE BIDDINGS ARE ILLEGAL, AND WORSE ANOMALOUS IN THAT:

1. RE: PSTC'S PROPOSED BIDDINGS OF TWO (2) PETROLEUM TANKERS, ONE FOR TIME-CHARTER AND ONE FOR PURCHASE , ARE ILLEGAL AS THEY CONTRAVENE THE LONG MANDATED PRIVATIZATION OF PSTC.

HISTORICALLY, THE GOVERNMENT'S PRIVATIZATION POLICY HAS BEEN STATUTORILY MANDATED BY **PROCLAMATION NO. 5 [1986]** UNDER THE FREEDOM CONSTITUTION. THERE, THE MANDATED PRIVATIZATION WAS ENVISAGED TO ACHIEVE THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES: **FIRST,** TO PROMOTE **PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION** IN DEVELOPING THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY; AND **SECOND,** TO **GENERATE MAXIMUM CASH RECOVERY** FOR THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT. CONFORMABLY, **REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8758** [1999] AND **SECTION 3, EXECUTIVE ORDER 323** [2000] REITERATED THAT:

1. ALL DISPOSITIONS OF ANY AND ALL ASSETS SHALL BE PRIMARILY FOR CASH; AND
2. ALL GOCCS SHALL REMIT TO THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AT LEAST 50% OF THE NET PROCEEDS DERIVED FROM THE SALE OF SHARES OR ASSETS EFFECTIVE 01 OCTOBER 1992.

CLEARLY, THE DESIRED PRIVATIZATION OF PSTC CAN ONLY BE MADE VIA **"SALE OF ITS ASSETS OR SHARES"**. ANYTHING OUTSIDE THESE TWO (2) MODES WOULD BE ILLEGAL AND UNLAWFUL. PSTC'S PROPOSED BIDDINGS ARE **"DISGUISED EXPANSION"** OF ITS BUSINESS, INIMICAL TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR. IT WOULD NOT GENERATE CASH, INSTEAD INCUR ADDITIONAL LIABILITIES.

INDEED, IT IS LAMENTABLE THAT DESPITE THE SIXTEEN (16) YEAR OLD PROCLAMATION NO. 5 OF EX-PRESIDENT AQUINO IN 1986, PSTC HAS ADAMANTLY FAILED AND REFUSED TO PRIVATIZE. WE THEREFORE ASK: **WHY THE RESISTANCE TO PRIVATIZE PSTC VIA SALE OF ITS SHARES OR ASSETS AS MANDATED BY LAW?**

2. RE: PSTC'S TWO PROPOSED BIDDINGS ARE HIGHLY ANOMALOUS AND DUBIOUS.

WE BELIEVE THAT PSTC MUST COMPLY WITH THE PRIVATIZATION POLICY. SURPRISINGLY, THEY ARE GOING IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION BY THE PLANNED CHARTER AND PURCHASE OF TANKERS.

ASSUMING ARGUENDO THAT THE PROPOSED BIDDINGS MAY BE SAID TO BE LEGAL, WE NONETHELESS BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE DUBIOUS, ANOMALOUS AND FATALLY DEFECTIVE. THE PROPOSED BIDDINGS ARE SHROUDED IN UTMOST SECRECY, AND WORSE CLOTHED WITH DEVIOUS TERMS IN UTTER DISREGARD OF THE PRINCIPLE OF TRANSPARENCY IN THAT:

A. THERE WERE **NO PUBLICATIONS** IN A NATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE NOTICES OF BIDDINGS. WE ASK: **WHY THE SECRECY?**

B. THERE WERE NO PRE-QUALIFICATIONS OF THE PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS, LET ALONE CONDUCT OF ANY PRE-BID CONFERENCES.

C. THE TERMS OF REFERENCE ARE REPLETE WITH HIGHLY DISADVANTAGEOUS, FLEXIBLE AND QUESTIONABLE TERMS, TO WIT:

   I. **THERE IS NO "TRANSPARENT, PUBLIC AND OPEN BIDDING".** INSTEAD, THE SUPPOSED BIDDING WOULD BE MERE CLOSET SUBMISSION OF **SEALED OR FAXED BIDS, EVEN** ON **A SUNDAY**, 10 NOVEMBER 2002 FOR THE TIME CHARTER.

   II. NO BIDDER'S BOND IS REQUIRED FROM A PROSPECTIVE BIDDER FOR THE TIME CHARTER, WHILE THE P5 MILLION BID BOND IS TOO LOW FOR THE PROPOSED PURCHASE.

   III. THE OPENING AND EVALUATION CRITERIA OF ALL BIDS HAVE NOT BEEN PUBLICIZED, BUT ARE AT PSTC'S ABSOLUTE DISCRETION.

   IV. PSTC'S PAYMENT OF THE HIRE IN U.S. DOLLARS ALBEIT THE EXPECTED INCOME THEREFROM IN PHILIPPINE PESOS IS HIGHLY DISADVANTAGEOUS DUE TO CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS WHICH IS TO BE EXPECTED.

THE FOREGOING NOTWITHSTANDING, PHILPESTA IS PERPLEXED WHY THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT (COA) SEEMS TO HAVE ABDICATED AND WASHED ITS HANDS OFF FROM INQUIRING ON THE LEGALITY OF THE ABOVE BIDDINGS, AND WORSE, GUARANTEEING ITS FULL TRANSPARENCY, FAIRNESS AND REGULARITY CONFORMABLY WITH APPLICABLE BIDDING LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS. INDEED, WE BELEIVE THAT ANY AND ALL PARTIES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO MAY BE ENTICED AND CAJOLED TO DEAL WITH PSTC SHOULD BE DULY FOREWARNED OF THE FOREGOING ILLEGALITY AND DEFECTS AS TO RENDER THEM INESCAPABLY GUILTY THEREFOR.

BASED ON THE ABOVE ILLEGALITY, NAY ANOMALOUS TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ABOVE PURPORTED BIDDINGS, WE ARE THEREFORE CONSTRAINED TO BESEECH HER EXCELLENCY'S IMMEDIATE INTERCESSION **TO FORESTALL, STOP AND ENJOIN PSTC'S ABOVE BIDDINGS** FOR ACQUISITION OF NEW VESSELS VIA TIME CHARTER AND PURCHASE THIS NOVEMBER 2002, TO PROTECT THE NATIONAL INTEREST AND THE GENERAL WELFARE OF THE ENTIRE FILIPINO PEOPLE.

IN GOD WE TRUST, AND IN YOU MADAME PRESIDENT WE BELIEVE

Very truly yours,

PHILIPPINE PETROLEUM SEA TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION, INC. (PHILPESTA)

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Iligan City, Lanao del Norte fight over ₱25M in power taxes

ILIGAN CITY—The division of the P25-million national wealth tax from the National Power Corp. (Napocor) calls for a "Solomonic solution." The sharing dispute stemmed from another controversy on the boundary between Iligan City and Lanao del Norte and the location of some of Napocor's hydroelectric plants.

The Napocor's Agus 5 plant is in Linamon town, about 11 kilometers from the Iligan City proper while three of the Napocor's plants—the Agus 4, Agus 6 and Agus 7 are located in Iligan City.

Councilor Alfredo Busico, chair of the city council's committee on laws, said the P25 million has been accumulated over the years and is deposited with Iligan's Philippine National Bank.

Mayor Franklin Quijano said the Napocor had proposed to put the money in escrow pending resolution of the boundary dispute. But the money should "already be used since it's been there (in the bank) for a long time," Quijano said.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach the Napocor for comment.

Busico also said during an SP session this week that it was agreed that the city and the provincial government share the national wealth tax pending resolution of the boundary issue between Iligan City and Linamon town.

Today, the Linamon River marks the boundary between Iligan and Linamon and years ago, Iligan's territorial jurisdiction extended up to Kolambugan town, 60 kilometers from the city proper, added Busico.

Another dispute

A similar territorial dispute that remains unresolved to this day is the boundary between Iligan and the town of Lugait in Misamis Oriental where Alsons Cement Corp. (ACC) is located. As of the moment, Iligan and Lugait town have agreed to share taxes from the ACC.

Aside from the income from the national wealth from the Napocor, Iligan stands to collect P7 million in annual franchise tax from the Napocor that remains unpaid since the last quarter of 1999.

"There should be a review of how much NPC owes Iligan and before the Department of Finance will allow exemptions to NPC," Busico said.

The Napocor was created in November 1936 when President Manuel Quezon signed into law Commonwealth Act 120. After a thorough study of the Lake Lanao-Agus river system, the Napocor built seven plants from 1953-1977, or, over a 24-year period along the Agus River and between two sources of water, Lake Lanao and the Iligan River. Water from Lake Lanao spills into the Agus River and into the Maria Cristina Falls before joining the Iligan Bay. The rushing waters provide the hydroelectric power to the Napocor's seven plants along the Agus River.

Revenue anticipated

Anticipating revenues when the Maria Cristina plant was being built at the mouth of the Agus River for the then municipality of Iligan, former Lanao Rep. Ali Mohammad Dimaporo sponsored House Bill 425 to make Iligan a chartered city during the second session of Congress. Iligan became a chartered city on June 16, 1950 when President Elpidio Quirino signed Republic Act 525. *Christine Godinez-Ortega, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Board's buying binge for cars stopped by court

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—The regional trial court on Tuesday stopped the implementation of a provincial board ordinance that allowed the purchase of P7 million worth of luxury cars for board members.

Executive Judge Jose Rosales of the regional trial court here issued a 72-hour temporary restraining order on the controversial Appropriation Ordinance 2002-165 (AO 165), barring Gov. Rodolfo Agbayani from giving the final approval.

The court granted the TRO based on the petition filed by Board Member Leonardo Byron Perez, who opposed the passage of the ordinance during its deliberations.

AO 2002-165 was a revision of an earlier ordinance that was passed allotting some P6.05 million to buy second-hand luxury cars for 11 of the 13 board members. The cars are worth P550,000 each, reports said.

Amid mounting public dissent, the board withdrew the ordinance, but only to increase the appropriated amount to P7 million for two additional vehicles.

Board members insisted they needed the four-wheel drive vehicles "to be able reach out to (their) constituents in remote barangays" and to "personally know their needs and living conditions."

But Perez said there are other priority projects needed by Novo Vizcayanos which await funding but might not be implemented due to the looming shortfall in the province's internal revenue allotment (IRA) share.

The province remains in a state of calamity due to the effects of the El Niño phenomenon, he said.

In his petition, Perez asked the courts to void the ordinance "for being prejudicial to public welfare." He said the ordinance violated the Local Government Code as it lacked evidence that the P7 million was readily available from the provincial government's coffers.

It also violated board's internal rules, Perez added, because in the approved ordinance, the signature of its supposed author was missing.

The author was also not named when the proposed ordinance was approved on first and second readings. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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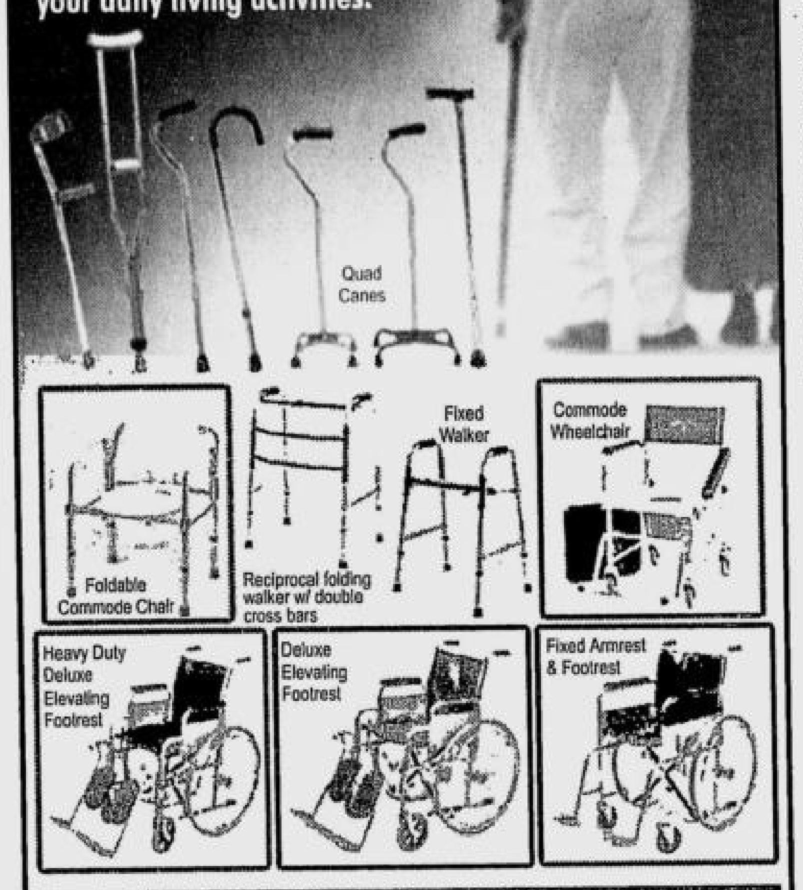
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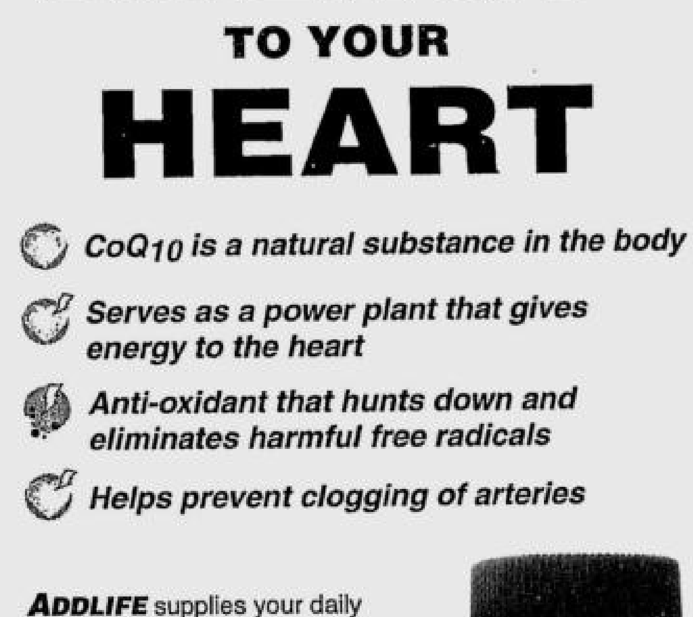

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Most Cabinet execs change minds

From page A1

tary Simeon Datumanong reportedly agreed on the move to give the President a free hand in revamping her Cabinet.

The letter was supposed to have been circulated among Cabinet members today, but Bunye said the initiative had since been overtaken by the consensus.

"What I'm saying is that (the) suggestion was rejected," Bunye said. "That was the stand taken by most of the Cabinet members."

Bunye declined to name those who attended the Friday meeting, but noted that "quite a number" of Cabinet officials were there.

Bunye also noted that the practice of submitting courtesy resignations was not a new one, "but we feel that this is just proforma."

"Put in another way, it might have been just a headline-getting stand," he said. "It's not really necessary."

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho submitted his courtesy resignation on Wednesday but it was immediately rejected.

Camacho was followed by Michael Defensor, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council on late Thursday and by Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas on Friday morning.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez was quoted over radio stations dzMM, dzRH and RMN that he and Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. would do the same soon.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza was supposed to turn in his own letter Friday noon in Malacañang but was advised to stop.

Full confidence

In the House, a congressional leader said the President's swift rejection of Camacho's courtesy resignation shows her "full confidence" in and "high regard" for him.

Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez said yesterday that the prompt action was "also a signal by the President to Camacho's hecklers in the Senate who have been asking for his head." He was apparently referring to Sen. Teresa Aquino Oreta, who has demanded the resignation of the finance secretary on several occasions.

Gonzalez said that the President wanted to allay investors' "feelings of uncertainty on the economic front."

He said the President might have not acted as swiftly on the other resignations because Camacho holds a "sensitive position."

The Palace had to announce late Friday that Camacho's resignation bid had been turned down because this would have jeopardized a $500-million government loan.

But the House said the President had to reject Camacho's resignation because otherwise investors would think that something was wrong with the economy.

"But whether or not she accepted the resignation, something is wrong with the economy," Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen said in a separate phone interview.

Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla said the President rejected Camacho's resignation because "it was important (for her to create) the impression that she has confidence (in him) even if he has not produced the right results."

Remulla said that the government had failed to address the large budget deficit as well as improve revenue collection.

Not campaigning

In the Senate, Sen. Robert Jaworski said he did not believe that certain Cabinet officials were beginning to campaign for elective office.

"I still believe in the dignity of these officials and I know they have some degree of ethics," Jaworski said in a statement.

Jaworski was reacting to reports that the President had given her Cabinet members who want to run in 2004 the go signal.

"If they do have plans, then bless them," Jaworski said.

But he was quick to add that "if they would conduct any campaign, this should be done in the correct and proper manner."

"That is, they should use their personal resources and not tinker with government money," Jaworski said. *With reports from Christine Avendaño and Rocky Nazareno*

RENY PAMPOLINA/ PCPO-MALACANANG

THE PRESIDENT and First Gentleman Mike Arroyo stroll down Roxas Boulevard with a favorite dog after hearing Mass in Malate church yesterday, trailed by security men and persistent rumors she is about to send some Cabinet officials to the doghouse.

LaoagAir pilot recounts crash

From page A1

the Manila Domestic Airport at 6:07 a.m. last Monday.

"I immediately knew something was terribly amiss," said Crisostomo in an interview with the INQUIRER.

"I felt it in my foot when I tried to compensate to level the plane using rudder control. Everything was a haze but my training and instincts kicked in. I knew that I had to land with only one engine," Crisostomo said, in his first public statement after the crash a week ago.

Crisostomo said he immediately started to steer the plane toward Runway 06 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and asked all on board to brace for landing.

But as he and his co-pilot Joseph Gardiner were making a run for an emergency landing, "the other engine died out," Crisostomo said.

"With both engines out, the only thing left to do was to glide the plane into Manila Bay. Gliding the plane as near as possible to the coast, I had to bring its nose down a little to keep it from stalling and bring its nose up again a few minutes before impact," Crisostomo said.

Touchdown

The pilot, a 1983 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy and a nine-year veteran of the Philippine Air Force, said the aircraft's ditching was "not a very violent touchdown."

But murky waters immediately rushed into the cabin, he said.

"Someone behind me said, 'Captain, it's time to move out.' It was probably the flight engineer," he recalled.

The pilot, a husband and father to three young children, said he and the flight engineer exited through the side door near the nose of the airplane. At that time, he already saw fishing boats rushing to help in the rescue.

He and the engineer, Juan Pornillos, jumped into the water. He saw a Caucasian male passenger climbing up the wing, which at that time was already at sea level.

"Then I also saw the tail had disappeared. There were also pieces of luggage floating from where the tail section must have broken off," Crisostomo said.

With the water already up to the Fokker's wings, the pilot knew that the cabin was already under water when many passengers were still inside.

The Pornillos tried to open the cabin door but the water pressure made it difficult. Crisostomo ordered the engineer to swim to the other side and access the emergency exit door.

Crisostomo then tried his luck in opening the cabin door.

"The water pressure made it difficult for me to open the door but I managed to pry it open somehow," he said.

Dive in

"I dove in (to rescue passengers who could have been still buckled up) but to my dismay, I couldn't see anything," Crisostomo recalled.

Gasping for air, the pilot said he surfaced and asked the fishermen to help him save those still trapped in the cabin.

Crisostomo led them to the gaping hole at the tail end of the fuselage.

"It was through that gaping hole that many of the passengers were able to get out," he said.

"I'll forever be grateful to those nameless fishermen," he said.

They could have pulled out more passengers had the main fuselage stayed afloat longer.

"I asked the fishermen to distance themselves from the plane since it was already sinking and we ourselves could be sucked down," Crisostomo said.

"Even then, I asked the fishermen not to go just yet. I was hoping and I was praying that more people might have survived and were just waiting to be picked up by the boats farther away," he said.

Moments after the aircraft had disappeared into the water, Crisostomo saw the the flight stewardess, Gemma Dasalla, being pulled out of the water by the fishermen.

With the stewardess unconscious, Crisostomo checked her pulse and thought she still had one.

"I thought that she still had a pulse but I could have been feeling my own then. Upon reaching the shore, I frantically asked that she be brought to the hospital but the doctors and nurses who were there declared that she had already expired," Crisostomo said.

His wish

In all, 15 of the 34 people on board survived the accident. But Crisostomo still wishes that more people could have been saved that day.

What pains him even more are allegations that he was not qualified to fly a Fokker.

"To say that I faked my license really hurt, especially since it's quite easy to check documents to verify if indeed I have a valid license or not," Crisostomo said.

"It's enough (of a) tragedy that this thing happened. God knows I did everything to the best of my abilities to ensure the safety of my crew and my passengers," he added.

Crisostomo appealed for understanding and an accurate reporting of the incident. He said it would be in the best interest of all parties concerned if they wait for the results of the investigation before issuing any comments.

"Some people say that I should be happy that 15 out of 34 survived. Still, how I wish that there could have been more," Crisostomo said.

Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza has suspended the investigation being conducted by the Air Transportation Office, to give way to an independent fact-finding committee.

Last chance to see meteor shower

From page A1

(about 260,000 kph) and rapidly burning up from friction.

Ty, however, didn't rule out fireballs streaking across the sky. "We should also be on the lookout for these bright meteors produced by larger bits of debris entering the atmosphere—they can literally lit up the sky," he said.

A typical Leonid shower involves about 15 meteors per hour. Last year's involved more than 1,000 per hour at times. In 1966, stargazers counted as many as 150,000 meteors per hour. Astronomers expect another such shower in 2099.

If the 1999 predictions of astronomers David Asher of Armagh Observatory in Northern Ireland and Rob McNaught of the Australian National University in Weston again come true, however, the world will be in for another big show this year.

Their prediction went well last year. Using a high-tech counting technique, a group of meteor observers on Mt. Lemmon, Arizona, saw more than 1,000 meteors per hour just before dawn on Nov. 18. Another group of international observers northeast of Beijing, China, counted a peak hourly rate of 2,400 shooting stars while other sky watchers in Asia and Australia reported rates of nearly 3,000 per hour.

Comets are believed to contain pristine examples of the materials that coalesced 4.5 billion years ago to form the solar system. The frozen balls of ice and rock are rich with carbon-based molecules. Some scientists believe Earth was seeded with the organic compounds necessary for life when it was repeatedly pelted with comets early in its history.

Scientists planned to study the comets by air and the ground.

"We are eager to get another chance to find clues to two puzzling questions," said Michael Meyer, senior scientist for astrobiology at Nasa headquarters in Washington.

"What material from space rains down on Earth, and what happens to the (meteor's) organic matter when it interacts with the atmosphere?" *With a report by AP*

Tips on how to best enjoy meteor spectacle

From page A1

November and its most identifiable feature is its head that resembles a question mark turned backward.

- Location is important, too. Get away from cities and suburbs to minimize the bright lights in your surroundings. If you're at home, turn off the porch and house lights. The darker your surroundings, the more meteors you'll see.
- Sit on a lounge chair for a comfortable view of the sky. Better yet, lie on the ground. Just don't forget to bring a pillow or a sleeping bag.
- Wear thick clothes since it's expected to be cold at dawn. A hot chocolate and light snack will help, too, in making this rare spectacle a lot more enjoyable.

Naia 3 deal, PEA scandal crucial tests for President

From page A1

corruption, its fiscal management's incompetence and the negligible impact of her social and economic projects, many of them targeted to alleviate poverty as outlined in her State of the Nation Addresses.

Aside from the opinion polls over the past six months indicating a continuing slump in trust and satisfaction ratings, the President received another wounding cut from the November business confidence index that showed that the index fell back to a record low this year. According to one finding, only 13 percent of businessmen polled thinks she will be reelected.

Businessmen may just be one of the sectors of the national life but business is the engine of economic growth, and if businessmen have low confidence with government, their attitude translates into freezing of investment and expansion plans.

Concerns confirmed

But opinion polls conducted on broader sectors of the population tend to confirm the concerns of businessmen over fiscal management, law and order and perception of corruption.

The perception that the administration has lost initiative and has been caught in a drift during the past few months is widespread and shared not only by the middle classes but also by the business community, both domestic and international.

The President has few options in reinvigorating her administration. One of them is a Cabinet revamp. A Cabinet change is a conventional political tactic to signal a renewal or a major policy change. It is not a cure by itself.

It has to be matched by a major surgical policy change and we have to wait until Nov. 30 to know how far-reaching the promised policy initiative would be.

The President has limited tools to pull down the soaring deficit—increasing tax revenues of foreign borrowing. Revenue collection remains poor and inadequate. She may change her finance secretary, but the change will not address the basic source of the problem.

While foreign investors and businessmen, as well as local businessmen, and the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank have expressed concern over the deficit, the administration reminds us that inflation is low, growth rate is relatively better than in most Asian economies, and the ratio of the deficit to the domestic product is relatively within reasonable bounds.

But the real problem, in political terms, with the deficit has something to do with the 2004 elections. A runaway deficit drives the administration to slash budgetary spending.

Cut into the bone

Indeed, slashes have already cut into the bone, leaving nothing for pump-priming and economic expansion. In 2004, the administration has to fund projects that can create jobs and pump economic activity, without which the President cannot possibly win reelection.

The government can go into further deficit spending, which can spark inflation and rise in interest rates, or into borrowing that will increase public debt.

These narrow choices impale the administration in the horns of a dilemma. During the past few weeks, the President has been talking to the council of foreign economic advisers and only last with the joint chambers of commerce.

In those meetings, the persistent questions were asked—the deficit, corruption and the lack of political will to pursue economic reforms. She has been told that they have been waiting for reforms to happen, and they have not been forthcoming.

The President has been less than candid in assuring the business community that she is determined to fight corruption. True, she has not been embroiled in the corruption of the intensity that rocked the Estrada administration leading to his impeachment, but the corruption perception is as pernicious and damaging to confidence in her administration.

Naia 3

The business community and, I suppose, the public at large are waiting for a demonstration of her political will to tackle corruption and two test cases have been singled out by the businessmen—the very controversial contract for the new Naia Terminal 3 and the PEA's alleged overpricing of the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard project.

She has told the businessmen that the contract on the terminal, awarded to Piatco, was under review even as she admitted that it contained "onerous" provisions heavily in favor of Piatco controlled by the Cheng family.

From my own review of the documents on the contract and the findings of the presidential review headed by Gloria Tan Climaco, the amendments on the contract, concluded during the Estrada administration, virtually installs in the Naia a government inside the national government—or a state within the Philippine state.

Under the amendments, Piatco gains monopoly in cargo storage and handling in the terminal, enabling it to collect revenues in amounts that would put the BIR collection into shame, in providing security (which should be the responsibility of the state, as the Naia is both a strategic civil and military facility), in awarding subcontracts to service providers at the terminal, and in charging terminal fees higher than those in other Asian international airport terminals.

In short, the amended contract facilitated the surrender by government of its regulatory function and responsibility, and the establishment of a monopoly by Piatco, in violation of the principle of level playing field and competition.

Dragging its feet

Having been shown the onerous nature of the contract, the Macapagal administration has been dragging its feet in annulling the contract and making the terminal services competitive. A hidden hand is widely talked about behind the pussyfooting of the administration—and it is identified to people close to the President whom they refuse to name but whose name is persistently mentioned.

The contract is a travesty of the "strong republic" mantra of the administration. It violates every notion of state control that has been surrendered to a private enterprise. This loss of autonomy of the state at Terminal 3 is the overriding issue in this controversy.

It makes a mockery of the strong Republic notion. It underlines the softness of the Philippine state and reduces it into a "sponge state."

This is why the Piatco controversy is the crucial test of the administration's "strong state" pretentions and of the political will of President Macapagal to root out corruption, when it is in her power to do so.

Wanna buy Diana nail clippings?

From page A1

pers said on Sunday.

The allegations, from a number of sources marked a new twist to the saga that began with the collapse of the trial of Diana's former butler Paul Burrell this month.

Burrell's newspaper memoirs, which he says he published to clear his name after the aborted trial, have emboldened other royal servants to talk to the press, resulting in a string of seedy stories that have plunged the royal household into crisis.

Californian collector Alicia Carroll told the Mail on Sunday: "There is a network of people inside the palaces on the lookout for cards and gift tags because they are worth thousands to a collector."

Apart from fingernail clippings, Carroll described a trade in everything from locks of hair to "Wombat letters"—letters written by Diana to Prince William by his pet name "Wombat."

Carroll said after Diana died in a Paris car crash in 1997, her phone was "ringing off the hook" with offers.

"The money that was changing hands at the time was scary," she said, adding that she had sold one "Wombat letter" for 32,000 pounds ($50,540).

In Farndon, Burrell returned to his home village on Saturday for the first time since the collapse of his trial on charges of stealing items belonging to Diana.

Burrell, whose trial fell apart because of last-minute evidence from Queen Elizabeth, was met by crowds of cheering supporters, an army of photographers and television cameras at the small Cheshire village in northwestern England.

Flanked by family, he spoke briefly to reporters before heading to his local pub for a homecoming party to follow up his publicity trip to the United States over the past week.

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3 Avoid Blood Pressure immediately after meals, coffee or tea as well as smoking. These activities raise your blood pressure.
4 Don't contort your body when taking a reading as this may cause circulatory congestion. Sit up straight and position the cuff at heart level.
5 Blood pressure tends to rise after exercise and bathing. Rest for 20 minutes before measuring your BP to prevent inaccurate readings.
6 Room temperature should be around 20°C (=68°F). Temperature extremes can cause circulatory changes that affect blood pressure. 20°C
7 If you have to lie, lie on your back when taking your blood pressure. Lying on your side gives a different reading.
8 Avoid repeated measurements within a short period as this might congest your arm with blood, causing inaccurate blood pressure readings.
9 Use cuff directly over the skin. If you have to use it over fabric, do so over sleeves made of thin materials to prevent incorrect reading.
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Every purchase of stove promo package — 4 raffle coupons
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- There will be three monthly draws:
Monthly Draws — Schedule of Monthly Draws
First — November 29, 2002
Second — January 10, 2003
Third — January 30, 2003
- Monthly Draws — Deadline for Submission of Entries
First — November 15, 2002
Second — December 26, 2002
Third — January 15, 2003
- The raffle draws will be held in the following locations
Northeast Luzon - PSPC San Fernando LPG Depot, Mac Arthur Highway, Brgy. Sindalan, San Fernando, Pampanga
Northwest Luzon - PSPC Rabon LPG Depot, Rabon, Rosario, La Union
Central Luzon - PSPC San Fernando LPG Depot, Mac Arthur Highway, Brgy. Sindalan, San Fernando, Pampanga
North Metro - PSPC Valenzuela LPG Depot, [illegible] Manila
Central Metro - PSPC Pandacan Installation [illegible] St., Pandacan, Manila
South Metro - PSPC Pandacan [illegible] St., Pandacan, Manila
Southern Tagalog - PSPC Alaminos LPG Depot, [illegible] Highway, Brgy. [illegible], Alaminos, Laguna
Bicol - PSPC Pamplona LPG Depot, [illegible] Highway, Pamplona, Camarines Sur
Cebu/Bohol - PSPC Cebu Regional Sales Office, Unit 901, Keppel Center, Cardinal Rosales Ave. cor. Samar Loop, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City
Western Visayas - PSPC Lapus Installation, La Paz, Iloilo City
Samar/Leyte - PSPC Anibong LPG Depot, Rawis Anibong, Tacloban City
North Mindanao - PSPC Villanueva LPG Depot, PHIVIDEC Compound, Villanueva, Misamis Oriental
South Mindanao - PSPC Sasa Installation, Sasa, Callipan, Davao City
- Draws will be made in the presence of a DTI representative and Shellane officers.
- Winners will be notified through registered mail.
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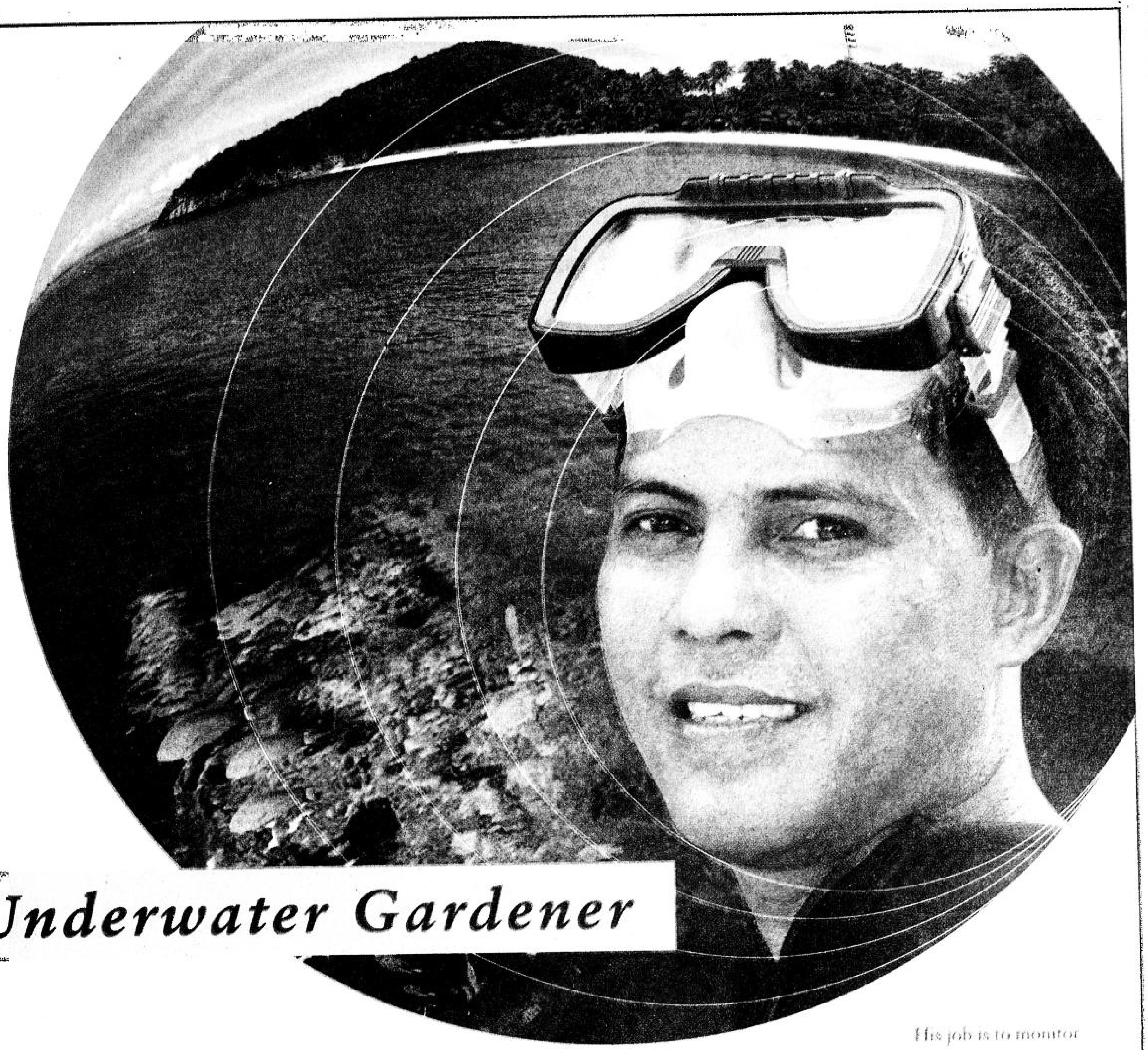

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SPORTS

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Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◉ *Assistant Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

KGB golfest Wednesday

BROADCAST golfers of the Kapisanan ng mga Golfers sa Brodkast will gather at the Eastridge Golf and Country Club in Binangonan, Rizal for their penultimate monthly tournament of the year on Wednesday, Nov. 20. The 18-hole medal-play tourney is supported by TaylorMade Adidas and GMA 7. Registration starts at 6:30 a.m. with the first flight teeing off at 6:45.

UE's Arnold Booker (right) tries to stop a drive by USJ-R's Richard Ian Saladaga in the Champions League 2002 yesterday. UE won, 74-67. ERIK ARAZAS

Warriors win, gain q'finals

LEFT to finish off the fight, the University of the East second stringers delivered as they subdued the University of San Jose-Recoletos, 74-67, yesterday and landed in the quarterfinals of the Champions League 2002 at the Makati Coliseum.

The Red Warriors posted several 20-point leads, but had to ward off the rallying Recoletos in the fourth quarter after stars James Yap and Paul Artadi left to to join their respective PBL teams. Ronald Tubid, another key Warrior, missed the game because of the flu.

Seizing the opportunity, the Recoletos came to within 68-61 with 4:49 left as Ardy Larong and Richard Ian Saladaga found their mark.

Larong shot five of his game-high 23 points and saladaga seven of his 19 in the last 10 minutes as they gave the Warriors anxious moments.

The UV Lancers, champions of the Cebu Schools Athletic Foundation Inc., downed the Jose Rizal University Heavy Bombers, 86-78, in the second game. *Roy Luarca*

Teener stuns foe

JUNIOR standout Kyle Dandan stunned No. 14 Raymundo Lopez, 5-7, 6-4, 6-2 yesterday to reach the men's singles second round of the P400,000 Philippine Columbian Association Open Tennis Championships at the PCA indoor courts.

The 13-year-old Dandan, who started to compete in the 16-under and 18-under divisions after winning the 14-under title in the Coca-Cola Open in Subic last May, arranged a second-round duel with Roderick Lazaro, who downed qualifier Menardo Econg, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4.

Fifth seed Korean Lee Chang Hoon trounced wild card Julius Kraut, 6-2, 6-3, while compatriot Chung Eui Hyun downed Edu Manzano, 6-2, 6-4.

India bet shines

INDIAN Sania Mirza subdued Uzbek Akgul Amanmuradova, 6-0, 4-6, 6-3, yesterday to score a sweep of the two-leg Union Cement-ITF Philippines Women's Circuit at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

It was the third straight title as a pro for the 16-year-old native of Hyderabad. She competed in the Australian, French, Wimbledon and US Open Juniors this year.

Defense, sports arms show slated

THE SECOND staging of the 2002 Defense & Sporting Arms Show will be held on Nov. 27-Dec. 1 at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall B, Ortigas Center, Edsa, Mandaluyong City.

The show is expected to draw record crowds again, owning to the welcome changes introduced by the Civil Security Group (CSG) and the Firearms & Explosive Division (FED) with regards to firearms licensing. Likewise, their continued support in the promotion of the shooting sport and responsible gun ownership will go a long way in assisting the firearm industry recover from the downward business trend brought about by the restrictive guidelines set previously.

Sponsoring the event are Total Security Systems, Inc., Sunrise Holiday Concepts, 105.1 Crossover, 89.9 Magic, 99.5 RT, Citylite 88.3, 103.5 K-lite, Wave 89.1, Pharmaton, Powerhouse and BMB Karaoke Superbrand.

SMB dumps P'foods

GAMES WEDNESDAY *(Cuneta Astrodome)*
5:30 p.m.--Coca-Cola vs Sta. Lucia
7:30 p.m.--Purefoods vs Red Bull

By June Navarro

DONDON Hontiveros fired 19 of his game-high 24 points in the second half as San Miguel Beer whipped Purefoods, 81-66, last night in the Selecta-PBA All Filipino Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Hontiveros also knocked in six triples and combined splendidly with Nic Belasco and Dorian Pena down the stretch in leading the Beermen to their third win after five games.

Belasco went four of 10 from the trifecta territory for 23 points and Dorian Pena added 16 as the Beermen negated the Hotdogs' inside forays.

"We're always having trouble with bigger teams. We had trouble matching up against Andy (Seigle) and Bonel (Balingit). It's a relief that Dondon's shots went in," said San Miguel Beer coach Jong Uichico.

The 6-foot-8 Seigle banged in 13 points and grabbed 11 rebounds while Kerby Raymundo pumped in 14 markers for the Hotdogs, who suffered their third setback in as many games.

The Hotdogs are now tied with the Alaska Aces while the Beermen share the third spot with the Talk N Text Phone Pals.

Jun Limpot exploded for 28 points as Barangay Ginebra routed Air21-Federal Express, 84-65, in the second game. The Kings tied Purefoods and Alaska at 3-3 while eliminating the winless Express (0-6) from the next round.

Scores:

SAN MIGUEL 81--Hontiveros 24, Belasco 23, Pena 16, Ildefonso 13, Mente 3, Racela 2, Gamboa 0, Lago 0, Victoria 0.

PUREFOODS 66--Raymundo 14, Seigle 13, Castillo 12, Fernandez 8, Yap 5, Patrimonio 4, Balingit 4, Cantonjos 2, Victoria 2, Evangelista 2, Magsanoc 0.

Quarters: 17-19, 37-33, 58-46, 81-66

Blu routs John O, shares second spot

GAMES TODAY *(Pasig Sports Center)*
3 p.m.—ICTSI-La Salle vs LBC
5 p.m.—Cheeseballs-Shark vs Montana

BLU All-Purpose shackled John O with an unforgiving man-to-man defense to score a lopsided 89-61 victory, vaulting to a four-way tie for second spot yesterday in the PBL Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

The Detergent Kings allowed their rivals the luxury of taking the upperhand in the first two quarters, but found the winning formula when they used a man-to-man defense which forced the John O cagers to make poor shots and commit turnovers.

In the second game, Welcoat trounced Dazz, 86-75, to post its third straight win against no losses.

Blu, thus, joined ICTSI-La Salle, Montaña and LBC-Batangas in second place of the nine-team field with a 2-1 record. Welcoat hugs the solo leadership with a 2-0 mark.

John O dropped to 1-3.

RP duathlon bets sparkle

SUBIC, Zambales–The Philippines made a strong show in the 2nd Asian Duathlon Championships yesterday amid a perfect weather at the Subic Bay Freeport here.

Ryan Mendoza, king of the local duathlon circuit, and Busan Asian Games veteran Maritess Bibit both finished second in the elite male and female classes, respectively.

Kodo Hiramatsu and Megumi Shigaki, world class bets from Japan, romped away with the men's and women's titles in this event sponsored by the Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Olympic Committee, Speedo, Nestle Power Bar, Informatics Holding Phils, Reliv Philippines, 105.1FM Crossover, Enervon, Gerry's Grill, and Subic International Hotel.

"I am gladdened by the tremendous success of this undertaking which would not be possible without the spirit of cooperation," said Tom Carrasco, Jr. president of the Triathlon Association of the Philippines. "The local results were very encouraging." *Dennis U. Eroa*

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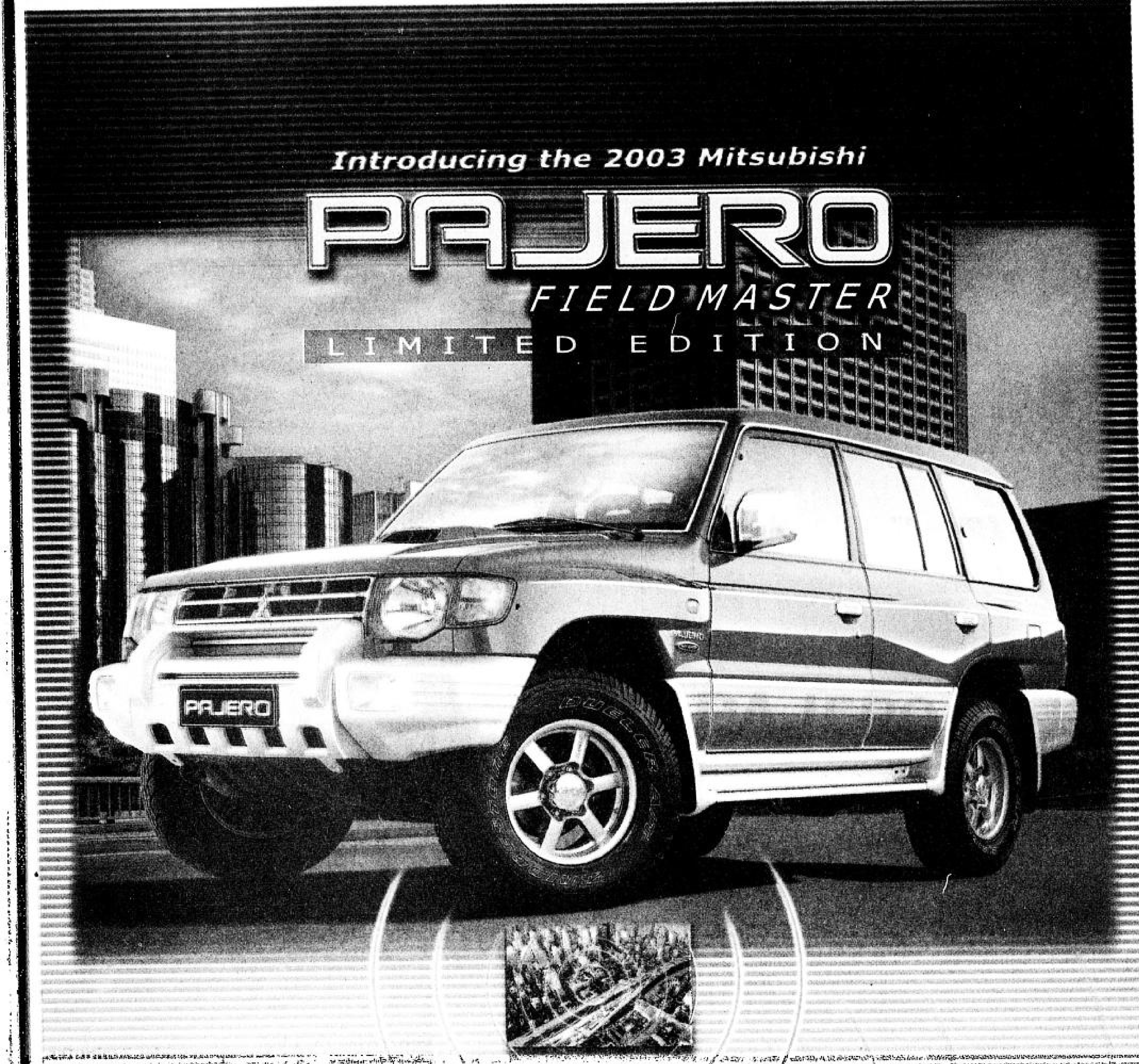

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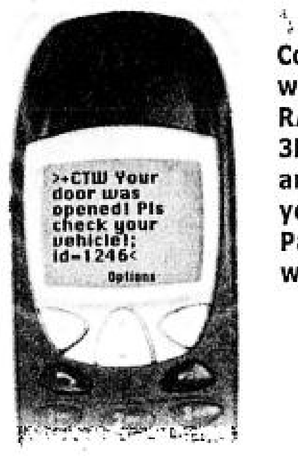
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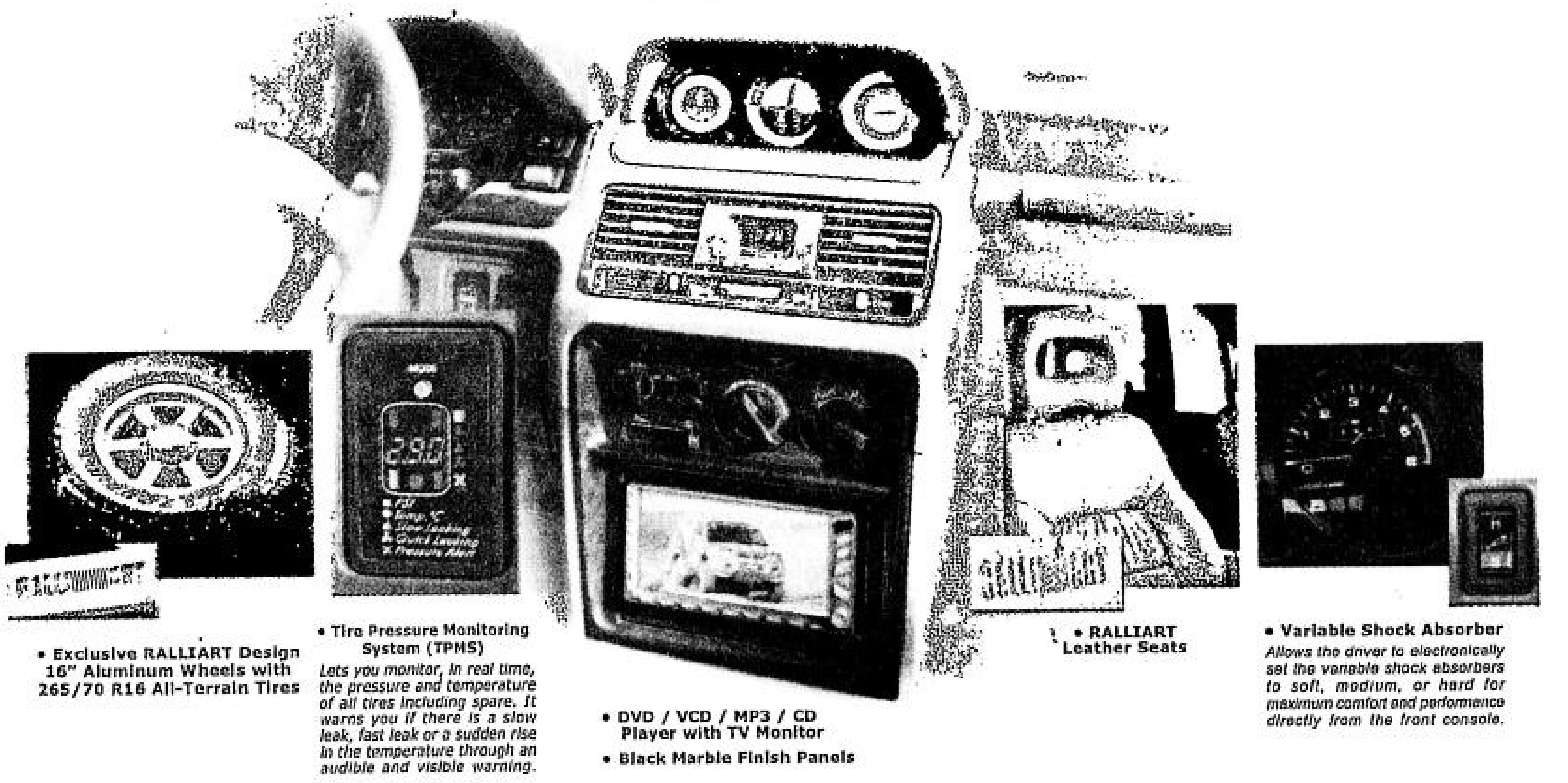

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Taylor Made meet Dec. 6

TOP-OF-THE-LINE equipment worth P300,000 will be at stake in the Taylor Made Shootout, a skills challenge that will usher in the third and final leg of the 2002 Sta. Lucia Tour on Dec. 6 at the compact but challenging Royale Tagaytay course.

As an added feature to the country's only series for members of various clubs operating under the same umbrella, the Taylor Made Shootout will see the 240 players in the field gunning for prizes in each of Royale Tagaytay's nine holes and a special putting event at the club's practice green and driving accuracy contest at the range.

It will also serve as the final warmup for the five clubs chasing for the Sta. Lucia Cup in the 2002 Tour which will be co-hosted by Orchard Golf and Country Club and the EagleRidge Golf and Country Club on Dec. 7-8.

The Shootout is part of Taylor Made's major sponsorship of the series like Unirock, Corp. and Readycon. Minor sponsors are Gainers Marketing, Kubota, Omega, Kodad, Philippine Airlines, Cebu Pacific while Yamaha is the hole-in-one prize provider while Hyatt (Manila), Marco Polo (Davao) and Cebu Plaza are the official hotels.

"We believe that by adding side-events like the Taylor Made Shootout, we would be able to make the series more exciting and memorable especially for those coming from the south," said executive committee co-chair Vicente Santos and Winnie Gob.

Details of the Shootout, the biggest event to be hosted by Royale Tagaytay were recently finalized by the joint organizing group led by Andy Dumlao, Ruben Encinas and Ernst Paguia, golf business unit manager of Taylor Made.

Wilson opening

THE WILSON equipment being used by sisters Serena and Venus Williams to dominate the world tennis scene will be the foremost products on display in the Wilson Show Room which is set to open on Saturday, November 23.

Aside from the tennis line, the golf products which is being endorsed by Padraig Harrington and local star Danny Zarate will also be in the stands as well as products in the basketball, football and volleyball.

The Wilson Show Room is located at the Freemont Arcade, No. 11 Shaw Boulevard in Pasig City with tel. nos. 687-6015, 687-6016 and 687-4438 or visit their website at www.sportmart-group.com.

Wind Blown, High Octane rule Breeders' Cup

By Edwin Villanueva

WIND Blown made history, while High Octane exacted sweet revenge as Hermie Esguerra's classy gallopers lorded it over in the 7th San Miguel Beer-Marho Breeders' Cup Championships which rolled down its curtains on a successful note yesterday at the Santa Ana Park.

WIND BLOWN (right) charges to the payoff wire as Hyperbid (left) makes his final bid. Wind Blown nipped Hyperbid by a head to score a historic back-to-back win in the SMB-Marho Breeders' Cup Classic. Also shown is third placer Lyonnais. VAL HANDUMON

Proving why he's the land's premier racehorse, Wind Blown showed a big fighting heart in holding off Hyperbid to rule the Classic and become the event's first repeat winner.

High Octane, on the other hand, recoiled mightily from two previous setbacks to prevail in the Juvenile Colts and emerge as top candidate for next year's Triple Crown hostilities.

"He's (Wind Blown) a champion and he's really got the heart of it," said Esguerra. "His next target will be the Presidential Gold Cup next month.

Esguerra shared his triumph with Sandy Javier, breeder of Wind Blown and High Octane.

"He's (Wind Blown) the best horse I've ever bred," said Javier, the winningest breeder in the annual championship with 13 victories under bis belt.

Esguerra also lauded trainer Nestor Manalang for superbly conditioning Wind Blown and High Octane. "Of course, *saludo rin ako sa mga hinete ko na sina* Dhunoy Raquel (Wind Blown) at Pat Dilema (High Octane)."

Other than the PGC where Wind Blown is aiming for an unprecedented third straight win, Esguerra said the 2001 Horse of the Year has also been invited to compete in Hong Kong next month in a race which offers a pot of HK$18 million (US$ 2.3 million). "We'll see if he's available in the Hong Kong race but our priority is the PGC," added Esguerra.

The day's other featured event–the Juvenile Colts-- went to Golden Ballet, who rallied along the rail in the stretch to get back at Sampaguita Stakes tormentor What A Spell.

"I raise my glass to Val Dilema. *Ang ganda ng pagkakadala niya*," said Golden Ballet's owner Jun Almeda.

Golden Ballet pocketed P600,000 like Wind Blown and High Octane, who avenged his previous loss to Diktador..

"It has been another successful staging of the SMB-Marho Breeders' Cup. Marho would like to thank all those who supported us," said Marho president Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, who with Javier founded the RP Breeders' Cup.

HERMIE Esguerra (left) sharing his victory with Sandy Javier. VAL HANDUMON

Among the local racing luminaries who graced yesterday's racefest were Philracom chair Jimmy Dilag, Philtobo director Eric Tagle, commissioner Roger Tandiama, Joy Rojas, Ramon Balatbat and Mar Tirona.

Knee-jerk reaction

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

BEFORE I proceed, let me state that I have no desire to hurt the feelings of my friend Romy Ribaño, secretary general of the Philippine Olympic Committe and president of the squash association, really I do.

But Mr. Ribaño, whom I respect so much for being level-headed before, does make it hard for me to continue respecting him now. If he feels happy with his knee-jerk reaction to my query, so be it. What can one expect from a sport official who has little to show in the way of progress except that he travels a lot?

All I had wanted was a short and honest reply to a question I raised in a previous column asking whether it was appropriate for sports officials to bring their wives to international competitions like the just-ended Busan Asian Games, explaining that they should not bring their wives to international meets because it will only divide their attention in performing their duties.

Last Nov. 6, I wrote and I quote: "How true is the report that Dayrit (POC president Celso Dayrit) and some NSA officials, including Romy Ribaño of squash and Benjie Ramos of rowing, brought their wives with them to Busan reportedly to do some shopping, using the official cars assigned to the athletes?" I also said, "Wives should stay home and pray for the success but not be a burden to the team."

Mr. Ribaño's letter does not warrant an answer, but for his satisfaction, I will go down to his level. Here is an unedited portion of his vituperative letter: "I used to admire you as a hard-nose sportswriter. However, since your retirement as Sports Editor of the Inquirer, you transformed into a "parrot", writing information your master feeds you without verifying the veracity of the information. A parrot is a bird that can be taught to talk but it only repeats the word of its master."

'Moto' tilt Nov. 23

SHELL-Yamaha, the winningest motocross team in history, tries to put the finishing touches to another successful season when the seventh and final leg of the 2002 WG&A Superferry Motocross Championships reel off on Nov. 23 in Fort Bonifacio.

Ernie Leongson seeks another victory to formalize his claim to the overall title and the prestigious "Rider of the Year" award in this annual series organized by Hartebeest Entertainment Corp.

Dallas hikes card to 10-0

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey–Steve Nash had 30 points and Michael Finley added 20 points and 13 rebounds to lead the unbeaten Dallas Mavericks to their 10th consecutive victory, a 96-88 win over the New Jersey Nets in NBA play on Saturday.

Dirk Nowitzki added 18 points and 12 rebounds for Dallas and Shawn Bradley scored 12 as the Mavericks remained the NBA's only unbeaten team.

The Mavericks held the Nets to just five points in the final 5:50 as Dallas held its opponents to under 100 points for the eighth time in 10 games.

Jason Kidd had 22 points, 13 assists, nine rebounds and five steals for New Jersey (6-3), which lost for the first time in six home games.

Kerry Kittles added 21 points to the Nets attack.

Pistons 74, Nuggets 53

In Detroit, Cliff Robinson had 19 points, 17 of them in the fourth quarter, as the Pistons routed the inept Denver Nuggets 74-53.

The teams combined to score the fewest points in a first half in NBA history -- it was 29-28 to Denver at halftime–as the 57 points broke the 47-year-old record by one point.

COMPLETE RESULTS

Philadelphia 93, New York 92; Atlanta 89, New Orleans 82; Washington 95, Miami 65; San Antonio 90, Cleveland 77; Detroit 74, Denver 53; Dallas 96, New Jersey 88; Indiana 107, Minnesota 101; Chicago 111, Memphis 93; Milwaukee 104, Boston 85; Golden State 135, Orlando 92

Hinlo leads Cavite int'l derby cast

VETERAN gamefowl breeder Danilo Hinlo of Negros Occidental is fielding three entries in the upcoming Cavite 7-Cock International Derby on De. 2, 4 and 6 at the Cavite Coliseum, making him one of the early favorites.

Hinlo was one of three champions last year. The other winners were Pol Estrellado of San Pablo City (PE San Pablo) and William Go of Malabon (Gold Cup), who posted six victories each. A total of 86 entries joined.

At stake this year is a whopping guaranteed prize of P2 million while entry fee is P30,000. Major sponsors are PAGCOR and Casino Filipino-Paranaque.

Part of derby proceeds will be donated to the Philippine Mental Health, according to Sen. Ramon Revilla who is hosting the fund-raising sports affair with former PBA Commissioner Rudy Salud, Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado and Lito Orillaza.

Arriving this week are five cockers and breeders from Saipan, bannered by Rep. Benjamin Sablan who was the solo champion in 1992 and Jun Marasigan who won the 2002 Mandaluyong International 9-Cock Derby.

Interested parties may contact Ferdie Bautista at 0918-5674921.

TRADITION CHAMPS
Members of the Mt. Malarayat Golf Club whoop it up as they receive the championship trophy after pulling off a historic win in The Tradition Inter-club golf tournament recently. Mt. Malarayat, which was competing for the first time, became the first team to win all three divisions and also hacked out the biggest winning margin of 30.5 points over two-time defending champion Sta. Elena.

Hewitt in final

SHANGHAI, China--It's the type of stage where Lleyton Hewitt thrives: a roaring crowd with a major title on the line.

Having clinched the year-ending No. 1 ranking for the second straight year, the Australian battled Spain's Juan Carlos Ferrero for the Tennis Masters Cup title Sunday.

Hewitt got a chance to defend his season-ending Tennis Masters Cup title when he outlasted Switzerland's Roger Federer 7-5, 5-7, 7-5 Saturday before a loudly cheering crowd of 9,000. Ferrero advanced with a 6-7 (6), 6-4, 6-4 win over fellow Spaniard Carlos Moya. *AP*

Morales prevails

LAS VEGAS–Erik Morales, showing little respect for Paulie Ayala's punching power, scored repeatedly with right hands against his smaller opponent to win the vacant WBC featherweight title with a unanimous 12-round decision that he punctuated with a devast ating final round. *AP*

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❄ How to win Kodak Cameras!

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1. Buy any Globe Prepaid SIM pack at any dealer or GT Business Center nationwide.
2. Activate your Globe Prepaid SIM by making a first chargeable call within the promo period. You will receive a text message with promo information from 2077 the day after you make your first chargeable call.
3. Text in REG<space>name<space>address to 2994 to join the promo. You will then be assigned one (1) electronic raffle entry number. Every Globe Prepaid SIM activated within the promo period that texts in to 2994 will receive only one (1) raffle entry number.
4. Every text message sent to 2994 will only be charged P1.00.
5. Globe will give away Kodak KB10 camera packages (with 1 box Kodak Max Exp 24-shot film and 2 pcs. AA battery) and Kodak Max HQ One-Time Use (24-shot) cameras daily. Prizes are not convertible to cash.
6. From the database of raffle entries, Globe will then randomly draw 1,000 winners of Kodak cameras daily thru an electronic randomizer. All subscribers who have activated within the promo period and have registered thru 2994 will be included in the raffle.
7. Daily Draws will be held Mondays through Fridays (except Saturdays, Sundays & holidays) starting November 18, 2002 to January 2, 2003 every 4 p.m. at 4/F Globe Telecom Plaza Tower 2, corner Pioneer and Madison Streets, Mandaluyong City. Activations made after 12 m.n. will be included in the following draw date. If a draw date falls on a holiday, the draw will be conducted on the next working day.
8. A participant can win only once during the promo period. If a name is drawn more than once, he/she will receive the bigger prize.
9. The winning raffle entry for the daily draw is disqualified in the succeeding daily draws.
10. Winners will be informed via text broadcast from Globe Infocast: 2077 if they won in the daily draw.
11. Winners can claim prize by presenting their Text coupon from 2077 at any of the participating Kodak Express/ Kameraworld/ Island Photo outlets nationwide. Globe and Kodak will conduct further validation and verification before awarding the prize.
12. Winners who do not claim their prize within 14 days of winning text notification from Globe Infocast: 2077 will receive registered mail from Globe Telecom, informing them that they have won.
13. Redemption of prizes shall be within sixty (60) days from receipt of the registered mail. If the prize is not claimed within sixty (60) days from notification by registered mail, the prize shall be forfeited in favor of Globe Telecom with prior approval of DTI. Redemption period is from November 21, 2002 until sixty (60) days thereafter.
14. Employees of Globe Telecom, Kodak Philippines, Harrison Communications, Inc., Ogilvy and Mather Philippines, and participating outlets, including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.
15. Subscribers of Touch Mobile are not included in the promotion.

❄ How to win P 250,000!

1. All new Globe Prepaid Subscribers who made their first call within the promo period are also entitled to join the "CAPTURE A Ⓖ MOMENT" promo.
2. Take a picture that captures a special moment with your family, friends and your Globe Handyphone. It can be funny, crazy or heartwarming.
3. Write your name, address, Globe Handyphone number, signature and the Ⓖ moment at the back of your photo. Size of photo should be 4R and should be developed using Kodak paper. The Ⓖ moment is a word or phrase that defines your special moment with Globe. Entries must be original, i.e. never made public in any form, derived from any medium nor submitted simultaneously for other competitions. The winning entry will become a property of Globe Telecom.
4. Place your entry inside a white legal envelope and mail to: "Capture a Ⓖ moment Promo" c/o Harrison Communications, Inc., 4/F First Life Bldg, Salcedo St., Legazpi Village, Makati City.
5. Only entries received on or before December 31, 2002 will be qualified to join the contest.
6. Judging will be on January 3, 2003, 4 p.m. at the Harrison Communications office.
7. Criteria for judging are:
   - a. Creativity 25% = use of Globe Handyphone in an imaginative/ creative way
   - b. Uniqueness of moment 25% = capturing a special moment of human connection
   - c. Emotional Content 25% = portrays an inspiring/ moving emotion
   - d. Ⓖ moment 25% = word/ phrase that defines your special moment with Globe
8. One winner of P250,000 (tax-free) will be chosen by Globe representatives and will be notified via a call through his/her Globe Handyphone to give information on how to claim the prize. In case he/she cannot be contacted by phone, he/she will be notified through registered mail.
9. Winner can claim prize within sixty (60) days from notification by registered mail at 4/F Globe Telecom Plaza Tower 2, corner Pioneer and Madison Streets, Mandaluyong City, upon presentation of a valid I.D.
10. Employees of Globe Telecom, Kodak Philippines, Harrison Communications, Inc., Ogilvy and Mather Philippines and participating outlets, including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.

See flyers for details

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METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

Fernando defies Sin

SIN

By Christian V. Esguerra

NOT EVEN Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin could stop the Metro Manila Development Authority from demolishing shanties in connection with the agency's flood control projects in the metropolis.

In two letters dated Aug. 7 and Sept. 23, Sin asked MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando to implement the government's flood-control projects in a "decent and humane way."

"I trust in your word that the affected families will be given 'just and humane relocation and resettlement,'" the Cardinal told Fernando in the second letter.

Sin had written Fernando upon the request of informal settlers who are facing demolition of their shanties which obstruct major waterways in northern Manila, Pasig, and areas

FERNANDO/ A26

Fire hits Farmer's, Quiapo

By Philip C. Tubeza and Agnes E. Donato

THOUSANDS of early Christmas shoppers at Farmers Plaza yesterday were sent into panic as fire hit the five-story mall in Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City .

But no one was reported injured in the blaze that started at the kitchen of the Tropical Hut Hamburger parlor and affected the Pizza Hut restaurant.

Both restaurants were at the ground floor of the mall, which has about 200 stalls that were forced to close down for the rest of the day because of the fire.

Arson investigators said the fire started at 3:30 p.m. and was put out an hour later. But it took firefighters longer to dispel the thick black smoke inside the mall..

Arson investigators said they are still determining the cause of the fire and the cost of property damange.

In Quiapo, Manila, some 600 families on Saturday were left homeless after a five-hour fire that razed a three-story wooden apartment at the corner of A. Nepomuceno and Arlegui Streets and 30 other houses in the area, said Jeffrey Nabora, of the Manila Fire Department.

GMA 7 cameraman Kim Sura and fireman SFO3 Ricardo Lavadona were injured during the blaze that started in the apartment at 5:38 p.m. and quick-

FIRE/ A26

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

The following are the applicants for nomination for five (5) positions of ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS:

1. Abdulwahid, Hakim S.
2. Alhambra, Reynaldo A.
3. Annang, Raymundo Z.
4. Arianza, Ricardo S.
5. Arquelada, Domingo Ll.
6. Aspi, Feliciano A.
7. Ata, Loreto C.
8. Bacolod, Gregorio F.
9. Baldos, Teresita Diaz
10. Barinaga, Sylvia Luczon
11. Barlongay, Samilo N.
12. Barza, Romeo F.
13. Basilla, Henry B.
14. Bersamin, Lucas P.
15. Besana, Lolita Contreras
16. Brion, Arturo D.
17. Cabado, Rodolfo V.
18. Carandang, Rosmari Declaro
19. Cortes, Ma. Aurora Pojun
20. Cuardo, Caridad Grecia
21. Cueva, Eulogia Makabenta
22. Cuñada, Alvin B.
23. Daway, Reynaldo B.
24. De Castro, Antonio I.
25. Decano, Alicia Gonzalez
26. Dela Peña, Jesus S.
27. Deloria, Merlin D.
28. Dicdican, Isaias P.
29. Dizon, Agustin S.
30. Estoesta, Cecilio O.
31. Exevea, Apolinario G.
32. Felix, Nemesio S.
33. Flores, Alfredo C.
34. Francisco, Pablo B.
35. Gacutan, Angelita Alberto
36. Genilo, Lita Tolentino
37. Geraldez, Norberto Y.
38. Gingoyon, Henrick F.
39. Gonzaga, Agustinus V.
40. Gonzales, Charito Biag
41. Grulla, Cielito Mindaro
42. Guevarra, Irene Ragodon
43. Infante, Amelia Tria
44. Inaigne, Eugenio A.
45. Ismael, Harun B.
46. Jurado, Roland B.
47. Laggui, Antonio N.
48. Lagman, Aurora Santiago
49. Lanto, Macabangkit B.
50. Laqui, Hilario L.
51. Lopez, Romulo A.
52. Magpale, Arsenio J.
53. Malik, Jacob T.
54. Mariano, Rebecca Reyes
55. Mendoza, Jose Catral
56. Morales, Leticia Padua
57. Nabong, Juan C. Jr.
58. Olairez, Ricardo N.
59. Palma, Pelagio B.
60. Panganiban, Delia Hernandez
61. Pimentel, Oscar B.
62. Pinto, Ofelia Tuazon
63. Pizarro, Normandie B.
64. Ranada, Santiago J. Jr.
65. Reyes, Jose C. Jr.
66. Roxas, Vicente Q.
67. Salvador, Fe Palmiano
68. Solis, Cesar M.
69. Sorongon, Edwin D.
70. Son, Raineldo T.
71. Tac-an, Paterno V.
72. Tagle, Lucenito N.
73. Tayag, Arturo G.
74. Taypin, Aproniano B.
75. Tiamson, Paterno G.
76. Tijam, Noel G.
77. Tipon, Artemio S.
78. Trajano, Crsenciano B.
79. Vicente, Rosalinda Asuncion
80. Victorio, Manuel D.
81. Vidal, Myrna Dimaranan
82. Vilches, Nimfa Cuesta
83. Villamor, Antonio Ll.
84. Villasor, Edwin A.
85. Villon, Sesinando E.
86. Yap, Vicente L.
87. Yatco, Antonio T.

The public may submit any sworn complaint, written report or opposition against any of the aforesaid applicants/recommendees, not later than MONDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2002, to the:

Secretariat, Judicial and Bar Council
Second Floor, Centennial Building
Supreme Court, Padre Faura, Manila
Tel. No. 552-9512 FAX No. 525-3208

13 November 2002.

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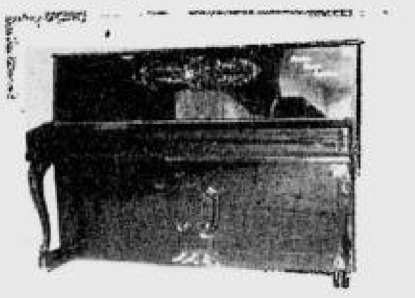

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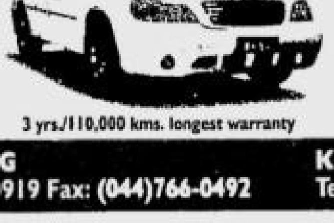

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After vendors, MMDA to go after erring vehicle owners

By Christian V. Esguerra

"PARK properly or your vehicles will be dismantled."

The "demolition man," Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando, yesterday issued this stern parking policy to rid the streets of all obstructions.

Fernando said all illegally parked vehicles will be towed or even dismantled as part of the MMDA's hard-nosed clearing operations.

The MMDA chair noted that motorists usually got away with illegal parking in the past simply by pulling their vehicle's hand brake and turning the front tires to the left or to the right.

"This time they can't use this strategy because we won't think twice in dismantling their vehicles," he said. "We'll do everything to get all obstructions out of the streets. (Motorists) can't take the government to task because what they're doing is illegal in the first place."

This week, the MMDA will zero in on the Port Area in Manila, which has been perennially clogged by corroded trailer trucks and other stalled vehicles.

Fernando has gotten many unfriendly tags, including that of the "demolition man," since he launched his no-nonsense campaign to improve traffic in Metro Manila by clearing the streets of all obstructions.

Aside from driving away sidewalk vendors and towing illegally parked vehicles, Fernando said the MMDA will also dismantle chain posts and other structures put up by establishment owners to secure parking spaces usually in front of buildings.

"They have no business claiming the spaces in front of their buildings for parking," he said. "They should have provided their own parking spaces before erecting their buildings."

Gunmen hit Makati restaurant; 1 dead

By Christian V. Esguerra

A WAITER yesterday was killed when two men on board a blue Mitsubishi Pajero passed by a Makati City restaurant and shot at it indiscriminately.

According to police, waiter Arquiles Dait, 36, was about to leave the Wasabi bar and restaurant on Makati Avenue at about 5 a.m. when he was hit in the chest by a bullet that went through the glass wall of the establishment.

The waiter died while undergoing treatment at the Makati Medical Center, police said.

Witnesses told Makati investigators that the two men on board a Pajero with no license plate drove by the bar and fired successive shots at the restaurant before proceeding to Ayala Avenue.

SPO4 Leonardo Timtiman of the Makati Police said authorities suspect that one of the gunmen could be a regular customer, who earlier had been refused entry to Wasabi because he refused to follow the bar's dress code.

Police said the customer refused to remove his cap and lashed out at employees of Wasabi.

Fire hits Farmer's, Quiapo

From page A25

ly spread to nearby houses, Nabora said.

Even the houses of the barangay chair and his two lieutenants were also razed in the fire that reached Task Force India before it was placed under control, authorities said.

Nabora said the fire was eventually put out at 10:37 p.m. after 15 Manila fire trucks and firefighters arrived.

Doctor Jose Baranda, chief of Manila's social welfare department, said that about 520 families were evacuated to the Ramon Avancena High School.

But city hall officials said the number of affected families could go up to 600.

The city government provided food, water, and clothes for the evacuees, many of whom were Muslims.

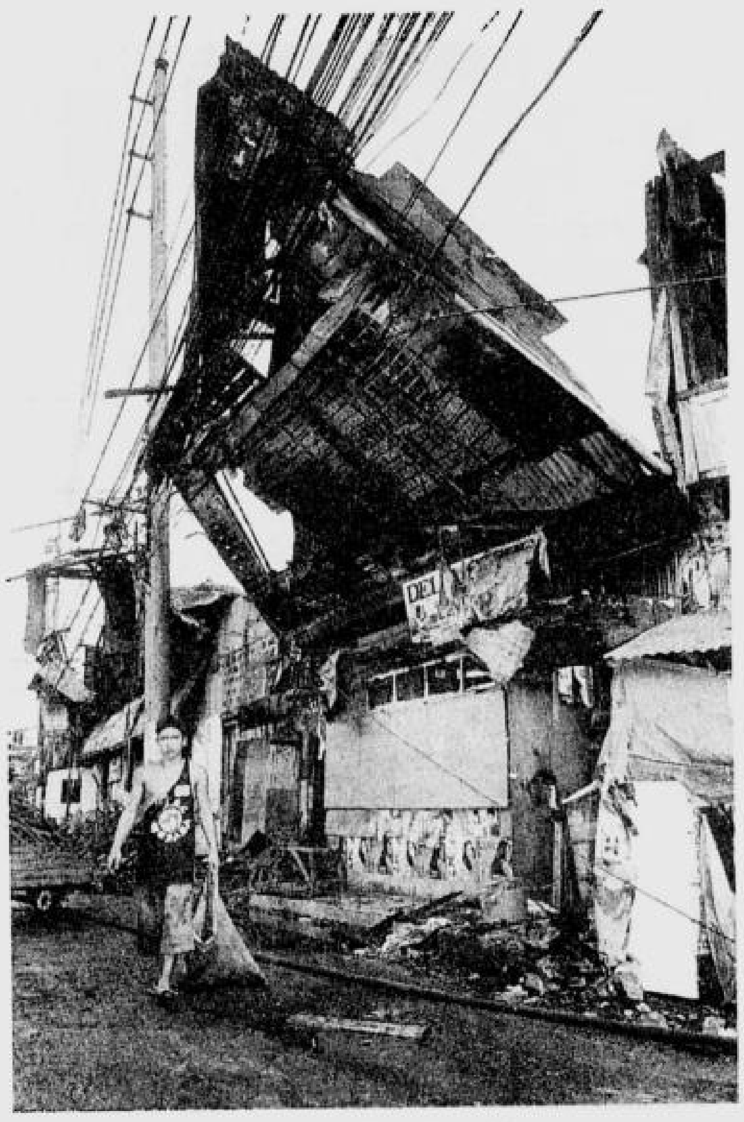
Baranda said they also considered the sensibilities of Muslims when distributing food.

A fire truck also arrived at the school yesterday for the cleaning of toilets.

Baranda said they were coordinating with school authorities so that classes today would not be affected.

He added that city hall was also providing money for some of the victims who have decided to go home to the provinces.

Arson investigators are still trying to determine how the fire started.



OBLIVIOUS of the danger from above him, this young man goes about his business a day after fire on Saturday razed an apartment block and about 30 other houses in Quiapo, Manila.

ERIK ARAZAS

Fernando defies Sin

From page A25

surrounding the Laguna Lake.

Despite the Cardinal's appeal, Fernando had driven away about 20 families living near the Pasig River in East Rembo, Makati, the Urban Poor Associates claimed.

But Fernando yesterday denied the group's allegation and said the demolition could have been carried out by the Makati government, not by the MMDA.

"I got the Cardinal's letters and I've already made my reply," he said. "I assured him that the MMDA would heed his request."

Fernando, who also co-chairs the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, said both the PRRC and the MMDA have yet to demolish shanties for their flood-control projects.

"We're still waiting for the President's go-signal because the government is still looking for sufficient relocation sites," he told the INQUIRER.

Fernando also slammed the urban poor for continuously criticizing the government's effort in solving the perennial flooding of Metro Manila.

"I don't know what these people are complaining about," he said. "They've been clogging our waterways and causing heavy flooding. We'll relocate them so they could have their own houses. But still, they're complaining."

3 Manila cops shoot trader in bar brawl

By Philip Tubeza

THREE rookie policemen are in hot water after they allegedly ganged up on a businessman and shot him during a bar room brawl in Manila after midnight yesterday.

The suspects were identified as PO1 Oliver M. Leonco, and PO1 Jessie O. Cargadag, of the Caloocan Police Community Precinct 7, and PO2 Enrique Trinidad, of Camp Crame, said investigator PO2 Alejandro Diamse, of the Western Police District's General Assignment Section.

They allegedly ganged up on Glecerio M. Buisan, 30, of Tondo, Manila.

The victim, who was shot in the jaw and both shoulders, was reported to be fighting for his life as of yesterday afternoon.

PO2 Diamse said his chances are slim.

He said the shooting incident happened at around 1:30 a.m. outside the Trip KTV along J. Abad Santos near the corner of Tayuman.

The victim and five of his friends had just come out of the bar when a waitress ran after them.

She told them that they had forgotten to pay for one of the tables they had occupied.

While the victim and his friends took out their wallets, the suspects and two other unidentified men came out of the bar.

One of the suspects then threw a tissue at the victim's friend, Nelson Cruzal. A free-for-all then ensued between the two groups.

A witness told investigators that it was Caragdag who shot Buisan.

Manila policemen arrived on the scene and caught up with the suspects, while they were boarding their jeep.

They also had Buisan with them, according to investigators.

The suspects told police they were taking the wounded Buisan to the hospital.

They told Manila investigators that they went to the KTV after they received reports that there were some unruly customers in the bar.

Diamse said the policemen are facing frustrated homicide charges.

Group hits Quezon governor's plan to set up dump

Delfin T. Mallari Jr.,
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

QUEZON Gov. Wilfrido Enverga's proposal to put up a garbage dump in the province has been hit by the same environment group that condemned the Metro Manila Development Authority's plan to implement its "Waste Rail Transfer and Processing Project" in central Quezon.

The Quezon governor wants to set up the dump near the town of Real at the tri-boundary of Laguna, Rizal and Quezon.

"That's the fallback position," in case the MMDA plan to put up a garbage dump in Quezon falls through, said lawyer Asis Perez, head of Tanggol Kalikasan in Southern Tagalog.

Perez explained that the proponents of the MMDA plan to set up a waste facility in the province are having a hard time selling the idea to Quezon residents. That is why the proponents have come up with the idea of setting up a provincial waste facility in the towns of Tiaong and Candelaria to accommodate trash from Metro Manila.

"Why in northern Quezon?" Perez asked. "If the intention is for a common provincial dumpsite to be used by all municipalities, the target place is too far from the rest of the province.

Perez said the Quezon dumpsite is to close to "the doorstep of Metro Manila."

"With the target area of the Quezon dumpsite falling near the MMDA project, we're afraid that the intended user is not really the (province) of Quezon but Metro Manila," Perez said.

Arnel Avila, the governor's community relations officer, said in a radio/television program in Lucena City that Enverga is against the proposed MMDA dumpsite project, but open to the idea of setting up a provincial waste facility in 500-hectare site in Real town, northern Quezon.

"But that was only a proposal from Governor Enverga, which we should seriously consider," Avila said.

He explained that the planned garbage facility may be used as a common dump by all local government in the province.

But Perez said the planned Real dumpsite is a "ploy" to accommodate MMDA garbage.

Armando Rutaquio, provincial environment and natural resources chief, also criticized the proposal, saying that the target area was as big as a "declared national park."

"It will cause tremendous damage to the ecosystem and affect several tributaries in the area," he said.

Pasig River floater turned out to be Japanese

JAPANESE businessman Yukio Saito, 53, finally found his missing cousin after a two-week search.

Saito said the man fished out of the Pasig River on Nov. 6 was Hideo Hoshino, 39, a tourist who stayed in Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati.

Hoshino was fished out of the Pasig River in Sta. Ana, Manila at around 3 p.m.

The victim's body showed no sign of external injury, police said.

Hoshino arrived in the country two months ago and lived with Saito, who allegedly had a mental problem.

On Nov. 4, Hoshino left their apartment and did not return. Saito reported the matter to the police on Nov. 14.

Saito identified his cousin at the Wellington funeral homes yesterday afternoon.

He told policemen that he identified his cousin through Hoshino's "military belt." *Philip Tubeza*

Tondo man stabs dead driver, woman vendor who fed him

By Philip Tubeza

"THEY kept on bumping into me."

This was the answer Nelson Roque, 34, gave Manila policemen when he was asked why he killed a 32-year-old porridge vendor and a 53-year-old driver in Tondo Saturday afternoon.

The female vendor had even given him a free meal. But instead of answering charity with gratitude, Roque stabbed the vendor with her own knife.

Roque, a member of the Commando Gang, and resident of Barangay Magsaysay, Tondo, Manila was nearly lynched by a mob for killing vendor Mary Ann M. Balanquit and driver Danilo G. Tisio, both of Tondo, said Detective Alfredo Salazar, of the Western Police District homicide section.

Tisio was stabbed eight times, while Balanquit was stabbed once in the chest, Salazar said.

Salazar said the culprit was thrown out of his house by his own parents because of his behavior.

The police are also looking into reports that Roque had been taking illegal drugs, Salazar said.

As was his custom, the culprit was asking for food around the neighborhood at around 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, when he went up to Balanquit's porridge stand near the corner of Matiisin and Magalang streets in Tondo, police said.

Out of pity, Balanquit gave him a bowl of porridge.

"She even cut the meat for his porridge," Salazar said. "But when she turned around, she left her knife on the table, in front of Roque."

As if possessed by some demon, the culprit suddenly took the knife, grabbed Balanquit by the hair, and stabbed her in the chest from behind, Salazar added.

"A female witness saw what happened and she started to scream as the suspect ran away, still armed with the eight-and-a-half inch knife," Salazar said.

The culprit then ran into Tisio, who chased the driver until he cornered him.

Roque then lunged at the old man and stabbed him eight times.

After that, the residents in the area began to chase after Roque until they caught him.

"They beat (Roque) up," Salazar said. "And if the barangay had not arrived on time, he would be dead by now."

Roque was later taken to the WPD headquarters. Policemen are now preparing double murder charges against Roque.

MCLE at the Manila Midtown Hotel

THE NATIONAL Prosecutors League of the Philippines (NPLP), as accredited provider of the Supreme Court's Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) will hold the 1st MCLE for Prosecutors of Regions 1, II, III, IV, V and NCR on Nov. 19 and 20 at the Manila Midtown Hotel, Manila.

According to Edward M. Togonon, NPLP vice president for LUzon and Muntinlupa prosecutor, the MCLE will be conducted in cooperation with the Department of Justice.

The MCLE (Bar Matter No. 850) is a Supreme Court requirement to all members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines to keep them abreast of the developments in law and jurisprudence, to maintain the ethics of their profession and enhance the standard of the practice of law.

Former Solicitor General Ricardo Galvez, Professors Harry Roque and Ivan John Uy will lecture on The New Rules on Criminal Procedure, International Law, New Law on Drugs (R. A 9165), Anti-Money Laundering Law (R.A. 9160), Law on Electronics Commerce and Evidence. The seminar is open to all lawyers covered by the MCLE. The NPLP commissioned the UP Law Center to conduct the seminar.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez will deliver the inspirational message.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, November 18, 2002
33rd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Rev 1:1-4; 2:1-5
Gospel: Lk 18:35-43

When Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the road, begging. As he heard the crowd passing by, he inquired what it was, and they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was going by. Then he cried out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" The people in front scolded him, "Be quiet!" but he cried out all the more, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Jesus stopped and ordered the blind man to be brought to him, and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" And the man said, "Lord, that I may see!" Jesus said, "Receive your sight, your faith has saved you." At once the blind man was able to see, and he followed Jesus, giving praise to God. And all the people who were there also praised God.

Commentary

The verb "to see" has a special meaning in the Gospels. It's not just a material seeing. When Jesus cures a blind man, he cures his eyes and his heart as well. In reality many of us suffer some kind of heart blindness. It's the blindness that prevents us from seeing the needs of those living around us and makes us judge them harshly. It's the blindness that so many times makes the horizon of our eyes end up at the tip of our nose. And our problems become the center of our world. Such blindness is like a chronic illness. We all need to be cured of it. As the blind man. To follow Jesus.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE) - Fraud as a ground for annulment of judgment—Well settled is the rule that for fraud to cause the annulment of a judgment, it must be established by clear and convincing evidence. The petitioner must sufficiently prove the specific acts constituting the deceit. It must demonstrate that "(1) her statements are untrue, made with knowledge of their falsity or with reckless and conscious ignorance thereof, especially if parties are not on equal terms, made with intent that petitioner act thereon or in a manner apparently fitted to induce it to act thereon, and (2) petitioner must act in reliance on the statements in the manner contemplated, or manifestly probable to its injury." [Citations omitted.] [Justice Puno, First Division, People v. Verra, G. R. No. 134732, May 29, 2002]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

Abalos goes 'by-the-book' in city's anti-drug drive

By Nelson Forte Flores

MANDALUYONG City Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr. yesterday ordered the local police to strictly go "by-the-book" in handling drug cases to ensure the conviction of drug dealers.

Abalos issued the order even as he organized a multi-sectoral watchdog that would monitor the city government's anti-drug campaign.

He said the watchdog would be composed of civic and non-government organizations.

To ensure a by-the-book approach, police officers and barangay leaders would be given video cameras to record every step of anti-drug operations in the city, Abalos said.

"We have many instances when drug cases went pffft because of technicalities," Abalos said. "These drug dealers are well financed and capable of going after the lawmen or barangay watchmen who made the bust. We will ensure that our people are protected."

He said the video recording of the entire operation would ensure that there will be no room for doubt against policemen who are only doing their jobs.

He added that the city government would develop and adopt intense education, prevention, apprehension and prosecution programs to ensure the success of the anti-drug program.

The city government's anti-drug campaign would be complimented by socio-civic and spiritual approaches, according to Abalos.

Instead of immediate condemnation, Abalos said he would use the four pronged anti-drug approach which he developed when he was still city councilor. This approach involves sending drug dependents to rehabilitation areas, providing them with livelihood opportunities, bringing them closer to God through spiritual programs and involving them in community activities like sports.

"They will even be given jobs," Abalos stressed.

Father searches for missing son

A DISTRAUGHT father from Dumaguete is looking for his son who was last seen on a boat bound for Manila.

Pacifico Ablay said he has not seen nor heard from his son Antonio, 24, since last Sept. 21.

Ablay said that on that day, he received a call from his neighbor, Arlene Calugcugan, who was on board the Superferry 5 that had left Dumaguete for Manila, telling him that Antonio was on the same boat.

Antonio, who is mentally handicapped, was dripping wet when he approached Calugcugan, Ablay said.

He said that according to Calugcugan boat officials they had detained Antonio because he had no ticket.

She said that before reaching Manila she went back to the room where Antonio was detained but was told that he had gone to the toilet and had not returned.

"I'm afraid my son may have jumped overboard," Ablay said. "I just hope he was not thrown overboard."

Blenda Paulo, passage supervisor of WGA in Dumaguete, said that their investigation showed that Antonio was on the boat and was detained. But she said that he could not have jumped overboard because the ship has lookouts round the clock. She stressed that the WGA does not throw passengers overboard if they do not have tickets. *Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Drug tests for fast-food employees

A MANDATORY drug test for all employees and applicants is now required by Jollibee Food Corp. according to Roger Madarang, corporate communication officer of the fastfood chain.

"Our decision to test our employees is in support of the government's effort to curb drugs in the community and more

important in the workplace," he said. "It is important for us to make sure that our employees are free from the influence of drugs to betterserve the Filipino family."

The food firm has designated DrugCheck Philippines to conduct the drug tests on all its applicants nationwide, Madarang added.

Is Manny Pacquiao ready for the big one?

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

NO need to worry. There would be no objection if you call Manny Pacquiao, current rage among boxing fans here, a mean machine. Or a knockout artist, to be more exact.

Pacquiao has aptly earned the tag.

But here's a timely tip.

Those eternally enamored with the sharp, unforgiving executioner inside the boxing ring, like Mike Tyson during his prime, may have to start reconsidering that choice.

After yesterday's world featherweight championship fight between Erik Morales and Paulie Ayala in Las Vegas, it was reconfirmed that a title bout could go the full 12-round distance and still be great and unforgettable.

In fact, the Morales-Ayala fight was, in its strictest sense, a sensational knockout.

O.K. There was no knockdown in the title match. But those who were there at ringside when Muhammad Ali beat Joe Frazier at the Araneta Coliseum could rank Ayala vs Morales with the Thrilla in Manila, an all-time classic.

***

Unlike in Manila in 1975, there were no clashes of the terrestrial kind at the Mandalay in Nevada yesterday.

But the sharpness, grace, determination, durability essayed by the combatants reclaimed for the sport the noble tag of Sweet Science.

And here at home, it was inevitable that excited fans started asking if our very own Manny Pacquiao should not one of these days figure out in that classy circle of world featherweights topped by Morales and Marco Antonio Barreira.

For one, before Barreira out pointed Johnny Tapia a couple of weeks ago and Morales beat Ayala, Pacquiao had been loudly advertising his hard-earned worth.

After his quick one-round knockout job in Davao last month, Pacquiao declared he was itching to fight anybody in that classy gang of world featherweights, make it quick please.

***

Indeed, Pacquiao, red hot, appeared ready to conquer the world.

A mini poll of side street fight fans, including fishvendor friends and ambulant buko sellers, clearly favored a Pacquiao adventure in the exacting featherweight division.

Didn't Pacquiao himself call up his manager after watching Barreira beat Tapia to say that he wanted to fight the winner right away?

Pacquiao was quoted as having assured his handlers he would find no trouble handling Barreira.

***

Listen, we can't blame our lone reigning world boxing champion. Pacquiao, by a plain estimate, is a junior featherweight who could punch as hard as a full lightweight. Meaning that although his official weight is 122 pounds, he could slam his fists with the might of a 135-pound fighter.

Or, who knows, at his intensest, Pacquiao could be a lot stronger?

Which means that he was in grave danger of being deluded by his inborn power.

Unfortunately, in boxing, landing a big punch and absorbing punishment are two cruelly different abilities. They could be as different as a worm and a butterfly, a mermaid and a man.

It's nice to also sound big and be heard by the world.

But is Pacquiao strong and mature enough to take the bombs regularly thrown by definitely bigger fighters like Barreira and Morales?

No need to hurry. After all, he cannot expect to promptly figure in the big money now.

As Don King fully knows the big one will be Barreira vs Morales.

There's a million-dollar market for that bout, with Pacquiao nowhere in sight.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Understanding film culture, language

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

SINCE we write film reviews, teach scriptwriting, acting and directing courses and have written and directed for the movies, we're often asked to conduct film appreciation workshops for people who may not be planning to work in films themselves, but want very much to become informed appreciators of cinema. What, workshoppers want to know, should they look for in a movie to tell good work from bad?

First, it's important that we take film on its own merits, not as an adjunct to literature. Since film culture and language still have to be sufficiently understood in this country, many people here can't make a full transition to film, and continue to expect that it will supply what literature does, because that's where they're coming from.

This includes strong, detailed, complex storytelling, loquacious characters who speak in "beautiful" language, greater stress on dialogue rather than on visuals and visual action, "moral lessons," themes that are verbalized rather than simply shown, satisfyingly clear denouements that tie everything up in a neat package, and nothing shocking, thank you very much.

If film viewers hold on to these traditional preferences, they can probably "understand" 70 percent of "mainstream" movie productions, because they have to keep things simple and obvious to appeal to the mass movie market, which is not very film-savvy.

But they'll have a hard time understanding what the remaining 30 percent of movies do, because these are generally the smaller, independent, more audacious and more filmic productions that don't want to keep things simple and obvious for their viewers.

It is this 30 percent that the average film viewer has a hard time understanding, because it's coming from another, unfamiliar place, where visuals, not dialogue, tell the story and make the points that the production wants to stress.

Unfortunately for the dialogue and literature-oriented viewer, many of the best, most challenging and rewarding movies are found here. So, to be good appreciators of films, literature-based moviegoers have no choice but to let go of their old notions, and work hard to "see" films the way their makers created them.

This step is a particularly difficult one to take for teachers. We once taught film appreciation to a class of 100 teachers, in the hope that they would then teach it to their literary "crutch" that, of the 100 workshoppers, only around 15 were able to make the transition to viewing film as film.

How did the successful workshoppers do this? They conciously shifted their attention from what was being said in a movie, to what was being communicated by being shown. They saw that images and action "say" things better than words because text is generally specific and self-limiting unless it's poetry), while visuals can "mean" many different things, depending on who is "decoding" them.

It is precisely this richness in terms of visual possibilities that makes the cinema such a dynamic and expressive medium. So, without arriving at this understanding, viewers will have a hard time appreciating film as film.

How can we arrive at this understanding? We must familiarize ourselves with film "language," its "syntax" and "grammar." Huh?! This sounds so arcane and difficult! Well, it can't be done quickly, just as it took us a long time to be able to express ourselves and communicate verbally.

Workshoppers can hasten the process by viewing a tape of a movie without sound. This way, they are forced to focus on the visuals, and see how certain shots and editing techniques "say" things that the muted soundtrack can no longer provide. More on film appreciation in subsequent columns.

Boob-tube booboos

HOST: Do you agree with the plan to arm our barangay tanods?

Guest: No, give guns to tanod is not easy at that. We even have very difficult of controlling the police!

(Ah, so...)

Host: What kinds of bombs are being exploded here?

Guest: The last was nail bombs. Tawag nail bombs dahil sa mga nakakabit ditong mga sharp nails, kaya pag sumabog, tinatawag na sharpnails!

(Ganoon ba yon?!)

Host: What will you do after this latest rebel attack on a police precinct?

Guest: We will right away go on a shirt and rescue operation!

(Ay, shirt and rescue!)

Jose Mari Chan, now a 'lolo,' hasn't lost passion for music

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

AT FIFTY-SOMETHING, multi-awarded singer-songwriter **Jose Mari Chan** proudly admits he's now a grandfather. He dotes on his first grandchild, **Ramona Isabel Chan,** from his eldest son, **Joe** and wife **Anna Patricia Buñag.**

In January next year, Joe Mari is even expecting his second grandchild from his eldest daughter Lisa, who tied the knot last January at Tagaytay Midlands. The ultrasound test showed the baby would be a boy.

But even if he's already a lolo, Joe Mari hasn't grown tired of his music. His songs remain as youthful as the day they were written. And even his busy schedule with his businesses has not diminished his passion for music and his zest for life.

FIRST GRANDCHILD. Ramona Isabel Chan.

Joe Mari's songs have become a big part of the Filipino pop culture. His melodies have been turned into love anthems or adopted as timeless personal favorites.

In local recording, Joe Mari remains a force to reckon with. With a gallery of 37 platinum awards for 11 albums, he is one of the biggest-selling musical artists of all time.

Good number

"That's a good number after being a singer for 38 years and a recording artist for 35 years," says Joe Mari of his platinum awards.

The hitmaker also holds the distinction of being the only local singer who received two diamond record awards—for "Constant Change" and "Christmas in Our Hearts" albums.

RECORD AWARDS. Jose Mari Chan holds his gold record award for "A Heart's Journey" and the double platinum for "Souvenirs." Daughter Lisa Chan-Parpan gets a plaque of appreciation for the single, "I Have Found My World in You."

This year, Joe Mari released two albums, both under Universal Records. "A Hearts Journey," which contains original songs, was recently certified gold. Joe Mari's daughter, **Lisa Chan-Parpan,** was awarded a plaque of appreciation for performing "I Have Found My World in You," the latest single lifted from the album. Earlier singles culled from the CD are "Easier Said Than Done" and "Here and Now," a revival of Joe Mari's original ditty which he re-recorded as a duet with **Aliyah Parcs.**

The gold record award was given simultaneously with the double platinum citation for Joe Mari's "Souvenirs" album.

His other album released this year is "Presence," a collection of Christian songs which comes with a prayer book authored by **Maribi Garcia.**

Prayer book

"It's a prayer book for busy people," Joe Mari informs. "I sang in the CD with other artists like **Karylle, Gino Padilla, Danny Cruz** and my daughter Lisa."

Joe Mari sings the cuts "It is the Lord," "The Lord's Prayer," "Be Gentle" and "May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You." With his daughter Lisa, he duets in "I Offer My Life."

Joe Mari's efforts of creating beautiful lyrics and melodies continue to be recognized by the industry. This year alone, he was honored with three lifetime achievement citations—the Awit Awards, given by the Philippine Association of Record Industry (PARI); **Antonio C. Barreiro** award from the Metropop; and from the association of music composers, Katha.

He was also elevated to the Gallery of Distinction in the 25th anniversary of the Aliw Awards.

"It's always a thrill to be given an award for something you enjoy doing," says the singer-songwriter.

New generation

Joe Mari believes that even when he's no longer visible in the music scene, his songs will be enjoyed by a new generation of listeners.

"We're like stars that shine brightly, but the songs live on and they will be revived by new singers," he says. "That way, the younger ones will be familiar with my songs.

"Look at **Michael Jackson** who was very popular in the '70s and '80s. Now he's forgotten, but not his songs. **Bing Crosby** was a big name in the '50s, but when you mention his name today, not too many people know him. Yet, his songs have remained popular."

"The songs have lasting quality and they will surely live on. So when they say, 'Sire a son, plant a tree, write a book.' I add, 'write a song.'"

Joe Mari insists he is not afraid of growing old. He likens old age to autumn, his favorite season when he lived in the United States for 11 years—from 1975 to 1986.

Today, he leaves for a two-week break in New York, where he expects to enjoy the splendor and beauty of autumn again.

"If the beautiful autumn foliage is an indication of what old age is, then I'm not afraid of growing old," Joe Mari says. "The brilliant autumn colors mirror all the memories you have made in your life, the knowledge you've acquired, the friends you've made and the love you've shared."

FATHER OF THE BRIDE. Chan with daughter Lisa.

BULLETS, BOMBS AND BODIES MAYHEM. Jason Stratham and Taiwanese actress Shu Qi in "The Transporter."

'The Transporter'...

From page A32

when he has to make a living delivering packages which normal, legal delivery services cannot accommodate. Three inviolable rules make his business hassle-free: One, he never changes the terms of the deal; two, he requires no names in his transactions, only locations and specifications; and three, he never looks at what's inside the package. When he breaks his third rule and finds a beautiful Asian woman bound and gagged inside the duffel bag at the trunk of his BMW, the usual chases, explosions, shootouts and fistcuffs follow.

Excuse

In the midst of this chaos is supposed to be a story about Chinese people being sold to slavery, but it is treated merely as an excuse, just so the film won't be accused of not having a plot.

I don't really expect plotlines in the action genre to be masterpieces of originality. I normally give an action film a fair amount of latitude if it at least presents interesting characters and the story moves without being insulting.

Sometimes, pretty standard stuff can be entertaining enough given a few variations. "The Transporter," though, hardly attempts to be innovative and thus gets to be too wearisome too soon.

This is one of those films where the good guy goes up against twenty villains and you never need to worry about him getting scraped up, where his gun never misses and the bad guys all seem to be firing blanks.

Whether Frank is even a good guy at all remains questionable throughout the film. It doesn't bother him that he's being an accomplice to a possible kidnapping, and is unperturbed even when the two innocent cops he stuffed in his trunk (for doing their jobs, mind you) are blown up along with his Beamer. Dead cops are no problem. He's just pissed about his car. It's hard to care about a hero with such integrity.

Honestly, I came to see the film mainly because of Shu Qi, the talented Taiwanese actress whose beguiling face kept me pegged on many of those movies on the Star Chinese channei (this was before the Star Network sucker-punched Destiny cable) regardless of their crazy subtitles. She's more than a decent performer, one who could have acted circles around the so-called actors in this film (you should see her in "Millennium Mambo"), but with this script it's hard to tell.

STRATHAM. Strong screen presence.

Chinese girl

Lai, her character (the Chinese girl in the duffel bag), is a string of damsels in distress linked together on a writer's pad and her meatiest line in the film is, "He was a bastard, but he was my father."

What's worse is how Lai is used in the most common of action film standbys: How the male and female leads fall in love. Frank and Lai could not have said about ten words to each other before attraction begins to grow between them, a few more words and she drops her clothes and propositions him for sex. Score up another one for action-movie humanity.

Please, please, let this woman show her quiet grace in another, much better English film.

There have been far too many action films like this already, and the making of "The Transporter" really begs the question: Do we really need more?

Evidently, the answer of producers everywhere is yes. Because there's a market for action films with generic and illogical plots, interchangeable characters (and titles) and all the other standard bits of fluff.

Who cares about originality, intelligibility and anything resembling taste, as long as people with attention spans that keep getting shorter still come and pay?

No need to fret or regret if you miss "The Transporter." You've seen it even if you haven't.

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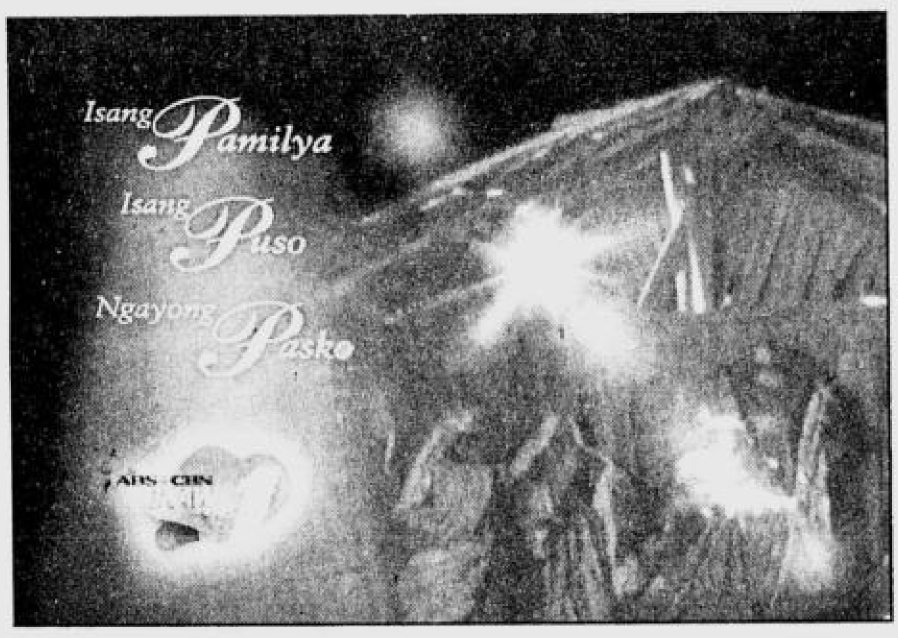
PUT A LITTLE LOVE IN YOUR HEART... AND THE WORLD WILL BE A BETTER PLACE

Join ABS-CBN in spreading love, sharing time, talent and fun to each and everyone as the most wonderful season of the year sets in... Christmas time.



Another Trailblazing Effort from the Pioneer of Illustrious Image Campaigns!

Only ABS-CBN can put together a truly majestic salute to the wonders of Yuletide with the country's greatest and most brilliant stars from the network's sizeable constellations: TV Entertainment, News and Current Affairs , Star Cinema, Studio 23, DZMM 630, DWRR 101.9 For Life, Star Records, ANC, Cinema One and the Regional Network Group, uniting in charity, empathy, simplicity and prayer in the midst of a truly Filipino Christmas.

Fittingly entitled, "**Isang Pamilya, Isang Puso, Ngayong Pasko,**" ABS-CBN's Christmas 2002 network image campaign echoes the theme of a popular song that portrays how a little act of kindness towards one another could ultimately make the world a much better place. Renowned for originating efforts that celebrate life in general, and the uniqueness of the Filipino in particular, the network once again assembles its formidable stable of stars and displays its unparalleled creative ingenuity as it did in its other visually-dazzling, cutting-edge campaigns such us 2001's "Sama-sama Tayo Ngayong Pasko," and 2002's "Saya ng Summer" and "Umulan at Umaraw, Magkasama Tayo."

A real treat for loyal ABS-CBN supporters, the campaign also marks some of the celebrity world's firsts, in a long while.

The Most Dazzling Convergence of the Biggest and Brightest Stars in the Entertainment Galaxy!

Yet again, the most important names in the entertainment industry unite in another amazing effort that will be remembered with awe in the course of television history.

The King of Philippine Movies, Fernando Poe, Jr. makes an unprecedented appearance in years. Acclaimed actresses Vilma Santos and Nora Aunor also make a truly memorable participation. Long-time ABS-CBN family members, Sharon Cuneta, Maricel Soriano, Pops Fernandez, Kris Aquino, Judy Ann Santos, Claudine Barretto, Aga Muhlach, ZsaZsa Padilla and returning members, Cesar Montano and Robin Padilla all add sparkle and glee to the effort.

Other lustrous ABS-CBN stars show their altruistic facet like the Hunks, Gretchen Barretto, Charo Santos-Concio, Joyce Jimenez, Willy Revillame, Karen Davila, DZMM's Inday Badiday, Senator Noli de Castro, Korina Sanchez, Lorna Tolentino, Boy Abunda and Edu Manzano, who scintillate amid the mirth of various Christmas events.

In a splendid climax, Comedy King, Dolphy does the honor of mounting the Star of Bethlehem on the symbolic Christmas tree heralding optimism and goodwill to a world bereft of enchantment and hope..

The Spirit of the Season is Truly in the Air!

The image spot exudes a touch of luminosity and native appeal with scenes shot in carefully chosen places to help bring the delightful Yuletide scenes to life. Social service institutions, Bantay Bata Rescue Center, Golden Acres Home for the Aged and Reception and Study Center for Children (RSCC), were included in the itinerary where stars joyfully shared the spirit of the season. Damar Village provided the picturesque backdrop for the community scenes that totally captured the essence of Christmas. Puerta Real in Intramuros worked its Old Manila charm by endowing a sumptuous local flavor to the various holiday activities portrayed in the spot. From Quezon City to Lipa City, every location shone with an ethereal glow heightened by the season's spirit.

A Showcase of Ingenuity and Originality at its Finest!

ABS-CBN's "Isang Pamilya. Isang Puso. Ngayong Pasko," opens with the traditional Simbang Gabi and ends with an astounding convergence of ABS-CBN stars traversing television, radio, UHF, cable, cinema and recording.

The network's Creative Communications Management Division headed by Cindy M. de Leon produced the campaign in collaboration with the network's Special Projects Division under Chit Guerrero.

Producers Tet Espino-Ligon, Tess Nayve, Liza Javier, Melai Adriano-Almadin, Pia Lopezbaños-Carrion, Olen Enrique, Bing Palao, Tina Barbin, Howard Palomares and Mylah Natividad hurdled the Herculean task of mounting close to a hundred sequences featuring more than 250 celebrities during the three-week shoot. Scenes were prudently planned and the shoots, meticulously prepared, in order to capture the holiday spirit.

The Broadcast Design group headed by Johnny de los Santos, culled the best footage from a massive 20 hours of raw material and laid exciting special effects. Live action components were carefully put together under the direction of young visionaries, Topel Lee, Erin Pascual, Alco Guerrero and Tots Sanchez-Mariscal. The effort was made even more successful with the cooperation of other ABS-CBN divisions: TV Production, News & Current Affairs, DZMM, DWRR, TV Engineering, CCI, Corporate Affairs, PR and Publicity; and subsidiaries: RNG, ABS-CBN Consumer Products, Inc., Star Records, Star cinema, Road Runner, Studio 23 and ACPI.

The ABS-CBN Men and Women behind the Christmas Station ID in action.

Get Set for A Better World!

Set to the tune of the classic pop song 'Put a Little Love in Your Heart," popularized in 1969 by Jackie de Shannon, and again by Annie Lennox and Al Green, 19 years later; the image spot not only promotes optimism and joy but also enjoins people to open their hearts to the world. A very relevant message amid national crises, the music also highlights some of the most becoming traits of the Filipino – his faith, good-heartedness, his belief in the strength of fraternity and the kindness of his fellowmen. The lyrics convey a message that touches the heart and at the same time inspires action at the same time.

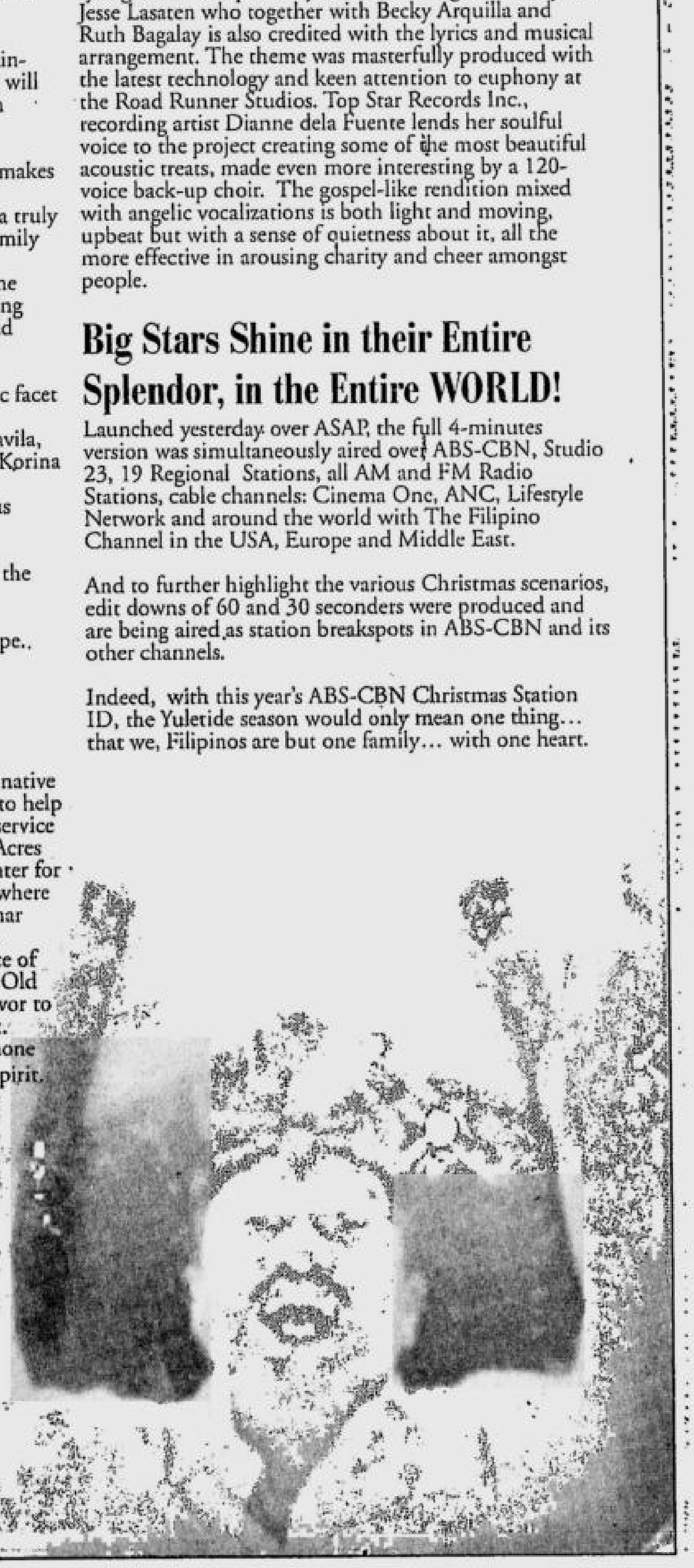
The spot also features an original song, "Buksan ang Iyong Puso" composed by award-winning film composer, Jesse Lasaten who together with Becky Arquilla and Ruth Bagalay is also credited with the lyrics and musical arrangement. The theme was masterfully produced with the latest technology and keen attention to euphony at the Road Runner Studios. Top Star Records Inc., recording artist Dianne dela Fuente lends her soulful voice to the project creating some of the most beautiful acoustic treats, made even more interesting by a 120-voice back-up choir. The gospel-like rendition mixed with angelic vocalizations is both light and moving, upbeat but with a sense of quietness about it, all the more effective in arousing charity and cheer amongst people.

Big Stars Shine in their Entire Splendor, in the Entire WORLD!

Launched yesterday over ASAP, the full 4-minutes version was simultaneously aired over ABS-CBN, Studio 23, 19 Regional Stations, all AM and FM Radio Stations, cable channels: Cinema One, ANC, Lifestyle Network and around the world with The Filipino Channel in the USA, Europe and Middle East.

And to further highlight the various Christmas scenarios, edit downs of 60 and 30 seconders were produced and are being aired as station breakspots in ABS-CBN and its other channels.

Indeed, with this year's ABS-CBN Christmas Station ID, the Yuletide season would only mean one thing... that we, Filipinos are but one family... with one heart.



Isang Pamilya Isang Puso Ngayong Pasko.

ABS-CBN

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2 KAILANGAN KITA	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS 11:30, 2:50, 6:10, 9:30	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS 1:30, 4:50, 8:10, 11:30	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS 1:20, 4:40, 8:00, 11:20	REGINE VELASQUEZ - SONGBIRD SONGS NOV. 21-22-23, 29-30 / DEC. 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 27-28	3 CHANGING LANES 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS	SWEET HOME ALABAMA		HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS 2:10, 5:30, 8:50	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS		HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS 11:30, 2:50, 6:10, 9:30	KAILANGAN KITA
	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS			
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NOV. 18, 19, 2002 R- TIME 5:20, 8:10, 11:00, PM

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1	HIBLA
2	MASARAP NA PUGAD

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821 8242·8400

1	KAILANGAN KITA
2	HIBLA
3	HARRY POTTER
4	HARRY POTTER
5	THE TRANSPORTER
6	SEX FILES
7	GHOST SHIP

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821 8242·8400

1	HIBLA
2	HARRY POTTER

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 ; 534.2198

1	SEX FILES
2	HIBLA
3	HARRY POTTER

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	HIBLA
2	KAILANGAN KITA
3	HARRY POTTER
4	HARRY POTTER

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	KAILANGAN KITA
2	HARRY POTTER
3	HARRY POTTER
4	HIBLA

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	SEX FILES
2	KAILANGAN KITA
3	BALLISTIC ECK VS SEVER
4	RESERVE

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	KAILANGAN KITA
2	HIBLA
3	HARRY POTTER
4	HARRY POTTER

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1	HARRY POTTER
2	HIBLA
3	KAILANGAN KITA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1	KAILANGAN KITA
2	MASARAP NA PUGAD
3	HIBLA
4	HARRY POTTER

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1	HARRY POTTER
2	KAILANGAN KITA
3	HIBLA
4	SEX FILES
	BUWAG MONG TAKASAN ANG BATAS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	HARRY POTTER
2	HIBLA
3	KAILANGAN KITA

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1	HARRY POTTER
2	HIBLA
3	KAILANGAN KITA

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	POSSESSION
2	KAILANGAN KITA
3	HIBLA
4	HARRY POTTER

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1	HARRY POTTER
2	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
2	KAILANGAN KITA
3	HIBLA

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	HIBLA
2	HARRY POTTER
3	KAILANGAN KITA
4	HARRY POTTER

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1	HARRY POTTER
2	HIBLA
3	HARRY POTTER
4	PLUTO NASH

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ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

FESTIVAL CINEMA
Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel. 85035-71 to 72

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AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
SHOWING ON NOVEMBER 13, 2002

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SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	TRANSPORTER
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	HIBLA
5	HARRY POTTER 2
6	KAILANGAN KITA
7	MASARAP NA PUGAD
8	GHOST SHIP

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1	KAILANGAN KITA
2	TRANSPORTER
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	MASARAP NA PUGAD
5	HARRY POTTER 2
6	CHANGING LANES
7	HARRY POTTER 2
8	HARRY POTTER 2
9	HIBLA
10	SWEET HOME ALABAMA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
6350749

1	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
2	TWO TIMER
3	TRANSPORTER
4	HARRY POTTER 2
5	HARRY POTTER 2
6	KAILANGAN KITA
7	HARRY POTTER 2
8	HARRY POTTER 2
9	HIBLA
10	GHOST SHIP
11	SEX FILES
12	MASARAP NA PUGAD

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	TRANSPORTER
3	HIBLA
4	HARRY POTTER 2
5	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
6	HARY POTTER 2
7	CHANGING LANES
8	GHOST SHIP
9	HARY POTTER 2
10	HARY POTTER 2
11	HIBLA
12	KAILANGAN KITA

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 · 6329401

1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	HARRY POTTER 2
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	HARRY POTTER 2
5	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
6	GHOST SHIP
7	CHANGING LANES
8	HIBLA
9	KAILANGAN KITA
10	HARRY POTTER 2
11	HIBLA
12	TRANSPORTER

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	KAILANGAN KITA
2	HARRY POTTER 2
3	HIBLA
4	HIBLA
5	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
6	HARRY POTTER 2
7	HARRY POTTER 2
8	HARRY POTTER 2

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	HIBLA
2	GHOST SHIP
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	HARRY POTTER 2
5	MASARAP NA PUGAD
6	SEX FILES
7	HARRY POTTER 2
8	HARRY POTTER 2
9	KAILANGAN KITA
10	TRANSPORTER

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	HARRY POTTER 2
3	CHANGING LANES
4	GHOST SHIP
5	HIBLA
6	SEX FILES
7	KAILANGAN KITA
8	HARRY POTTER 2

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	SEX FILES
2	CLOSED
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	KAILANGAN KITA
5	HIBLA
6	HARRY POTTER 2
7	CLOSED
8	RED DRAGON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	HARRY POTTER 2
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	HIBLA
5	SEX FILES
6	KAILANGAN KITA

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	HIBLA
2	HARRY POTTER 2
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	KAILANGAN KITA

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	HIBLA
3	KAILANGAN KITA
4	HARRY POTTER 2

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	HIBLA
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	KAILANGAN KITA
5	HARRY POTTER 2
6	CHANGING LANES

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

WATCH OUT FOR THE OPENING ON NOVEMBER 29, 2002

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	HIBLA
3	INTERSTATE 60
4	HARRY POTTER 2

THE PODIUM CINEMA

1	HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS 12:30 FS/1:00 MF/4:20/7:40/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:50 END
2	HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS 11:50 FS/12:20 MF/3:40/7:00 9:50 LFS/10:20 LMF/1:10 END

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
Matinee : P100.00 - Screening until 5pm · Monday thru Friday
Regular Rate P120.00 - After 5pm · Saturday · Sunday · Holidays (Reserved Seating)

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

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Galleria
632- 9115- 16
633- 7641 loc. 279

THX	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS 11:30(MF), 2:50, 6:10, 9:30(LMF), 12:20(END)
2	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
3	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
4	GHOST SHIP
5	HIBLA
6	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
7	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
8	KAILANGAN KITA
9	SEX FILES
10	THE TRANSPORTER

MATINEE PRICE: P80 THX cinema : P65 1level cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
2	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
3	TRANSPORTER
4	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
5	HIBLA
6	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
7	KAILANGAN KITA

Metro East - Marcos hway
682- 8193 / 8280

1	SEX FILES
2	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
3	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
4	THE TRANSPORTER
5	HIBLA
6	KAILANGAN KITA
7	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
8	MASARAP NA PUGAD

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
2	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
3	THETRANSPORTER
4	GHOST SHIP
5	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
6	KAILANGAN KITA
7	MASARAP NA PUGAD
8	HIBLA

Malabon Citisquare
285- 7671 / 7675

1	HIBLA
2	OPENS NOV. 27- DIE ANOTHER DAY
3	OPENS NOV. 20- GISING NA SI ADAN
4	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS

Star Mills- Sn. Fernando, Pamp.
875- 1927
961- 5318 / 5270

1	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
2	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
3	KAILANGAN KITA
4	HIBLA
5	SEX FILES
6	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS

Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	HARRY POTTER & THA CHAMBER OF SECRETS
2	HARRY POTTER & THA CHAMBER OF SECRETS
3	HARRY POTTER & THA CHAMBER OF SECRETS
4	KAILANGAN KITA
5	SEX FILES
6	HIBLA

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
2	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
3	KAILANGAN KITA
4	BEDTIME STORIES
5	"O"
6	FRAILTY

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
2	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
3	HIBLA
4	KAILANGAN KITA
5	SEX FILES
6	DALAGINDING

http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
txt-a-movie: CTC MOV RMW branch code

GALLERIA	ERMITA	M EAST	NOVALICHES
GALE	MLA	MEP	NOVA
IMUS	STARMILLS	BACOLOD	ILOILO
IMUS	STAR	BAC	ILO

2333 / 225

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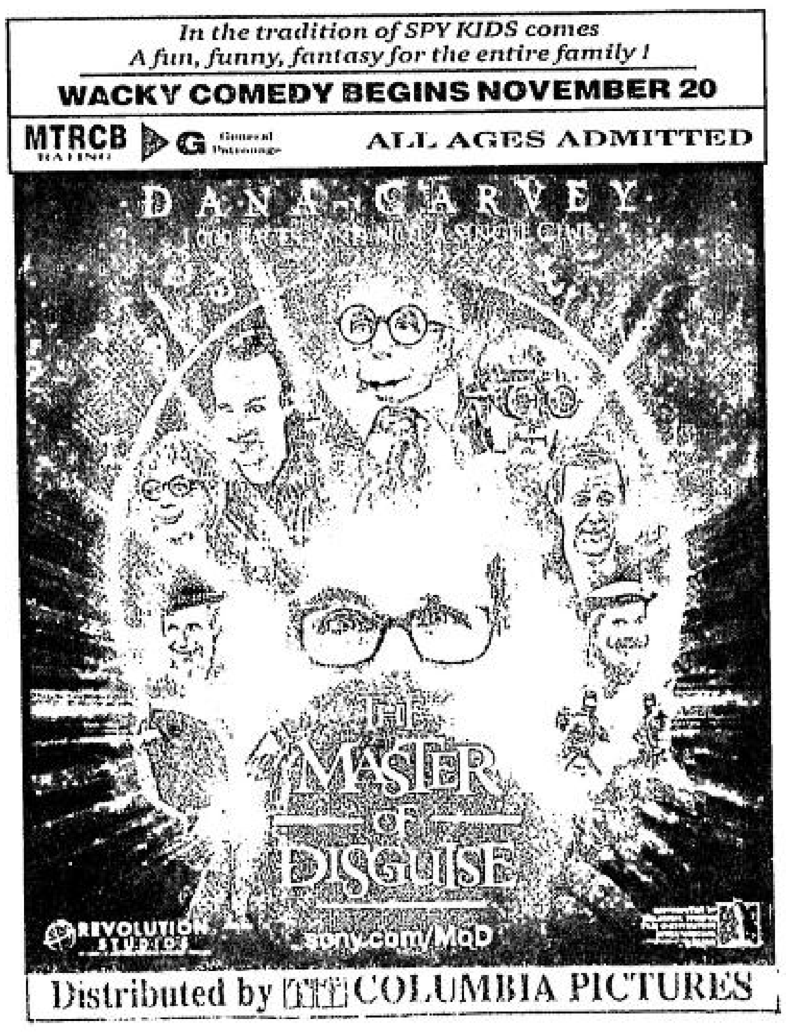

In the tradition of SPY KIDS comes
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WACKY COMEDY BEGINS NOVEMBER 20

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THE MASTER OF DISGUISE
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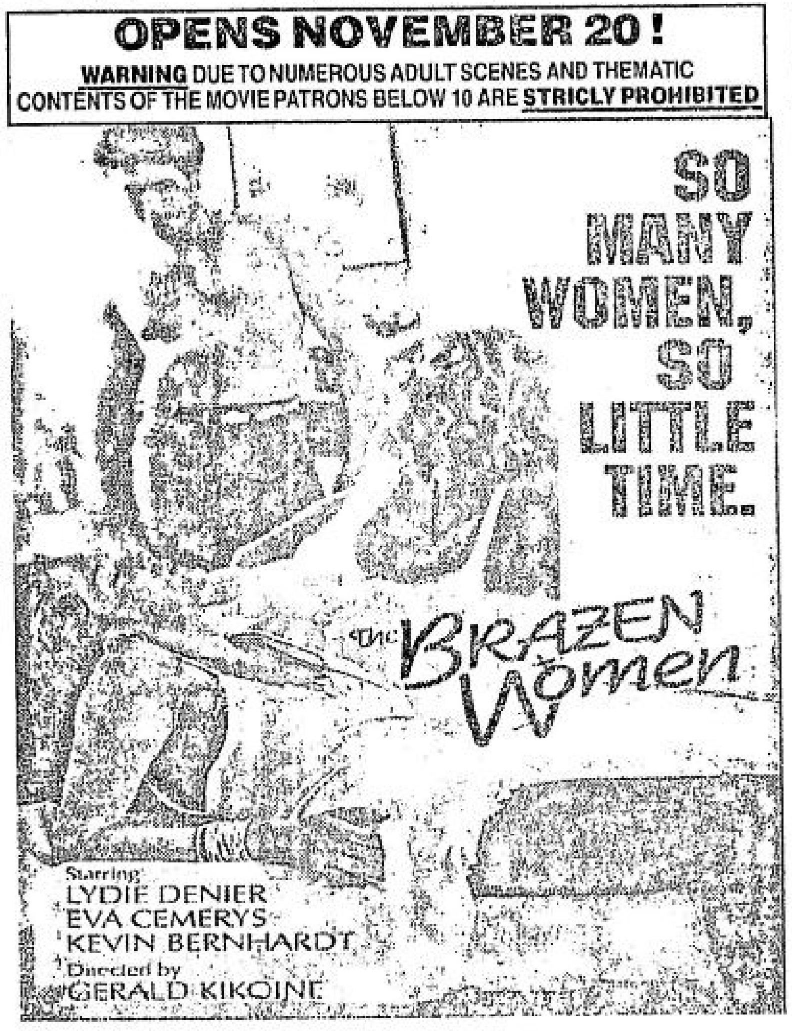


OPENS NOVEMBER 20 !

WARNING DUE TO NUMEROUS ADULT SCENES AND THEMATIC CONTENTS OF THE MOVIE PATRONS BELOW 10 ARE **STRICLY PROHIBITED**

SO MANY WOMEN, SO LITTLE TIME.
The BRAZEN Women

Starring
LYDIE DENIER
EVA CEMERYS
KEVIN BERNHARDT
Directed by
GERALD KIKOINE

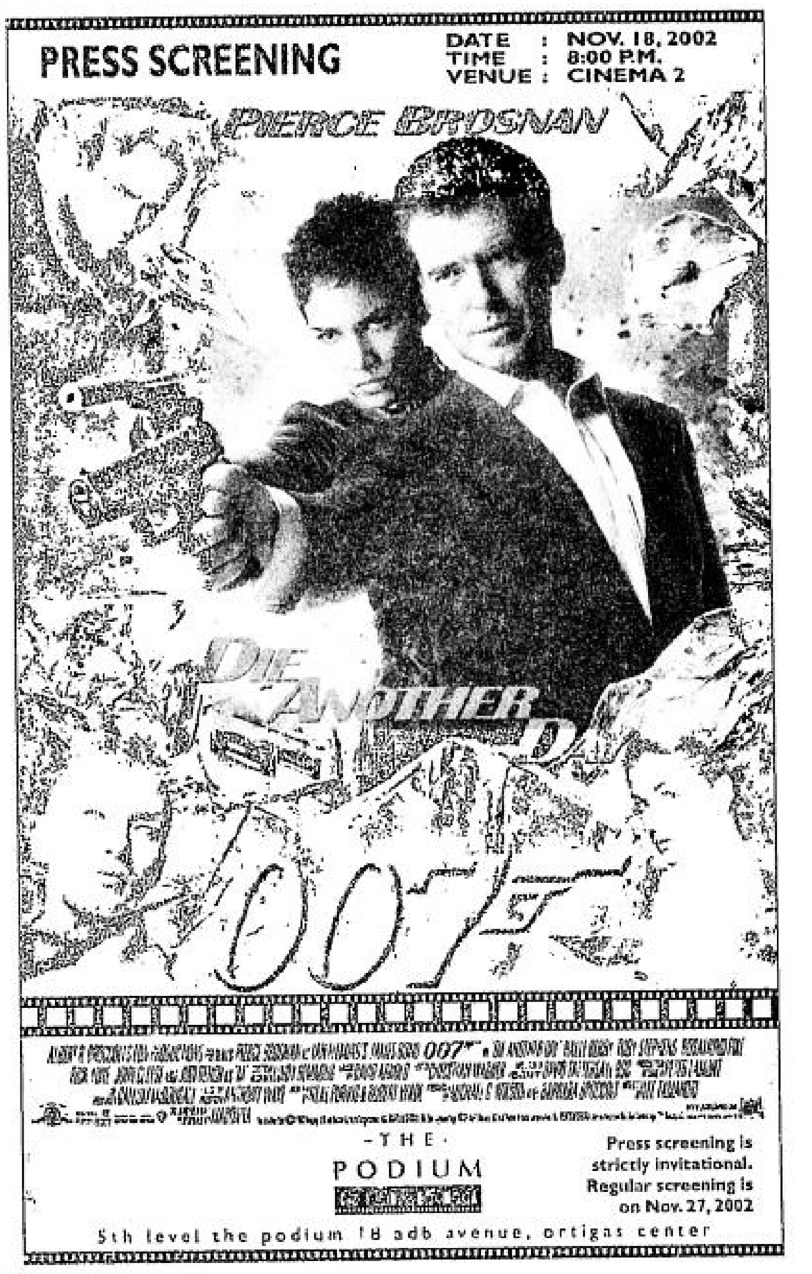
THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1	HARRY POTTER 10:00, 1:00, 4:05, 7:10, 10:20 GP
CINEMA 2	HARRY POTTER 10:30, 1:30, 4:35, 7:40, 11:00 GP

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM
NOV 15-16 & 22-23, 2002 "THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES" 9:00 PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION PLS. CALL 721-6726 OR 721-0635



PRESS SCREENING

DATE : NOV. 18, 2002
TIME : 8:00 P.M.
VENUE : CINEMA 2

PIERCE BROSNAN
DIE ANOTHER DAY
007

-THE-
PODIUM

Press screening is strictly invitational. Regular screening is on Nov. 27, 2002

5th level the podium 18 adb avenue, ortigas center

Star Group of Malls starts Yuletide celebration

THE STAR Group of Malls starts Christmas in November by lighting up their giant Christmas Tree and staging several events that are sure to bring joy and cheer to all.

A "Christmas Décor and Gifts Fair" is ongoing at the Starmall Atrium until Nov. 22.

The newly opened Starmall Trade Hall hosts a Christmas Bazaar until Nov. 30.

Former Wiseguys vocalist Ron Antonio launches his debut album, "Isang Pangarap Lang," Nov. 23 at the Starmall Trade Hall and Nov. 30 at the Metropolis Star Trade Hall.

Metropolis Star and Nestle Ice Cream present the famous characters of "Batibot," Nov. 23.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS GP 1:40, 4:50, 8:00	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS GP 12:30,3:40,6:50,10:00	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS GP 11:50,3:00,6:10,9:20
HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS GP 11:10,2:20,5:30,8:40	KAILANGAN KITA P13 12:40,2:55,5:10, 7:25,9:40	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS GP 1:10, 4:20, 7:30, 10:40

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	KAILANGAN KITA
Ali 2	HIBLA
Ali 3	HARRY POTTER 2
Ali 4	HARRY POTTER 2
Ali 5	TRANSPORTER
Ali 6	SEX FILES
Ali 7	MASARAP NA PUGAD

FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS	
Farmers 1	HIBLA
Farmers 2	HARRY POTTER 2

ARANETA COLISEUM	
NOV. 18,20,22	BAKBAKAN NAT L Z STAG DERBY
NOV.23	JOHNSONS CHEERING COMPETITION
NOV 24	PBA GAMES

ELEPHANT WORLD	
NOV. 18	10.00 AM / 3.00 PM
NOV. 20	1:00 PM / 3.00 PM
NOV 21	10 00AM / 3:00 PM

NOW SHOWING
at all
AYALA CINEMAS
Glorietta 1 & 4
Greenbelt 1 & 3
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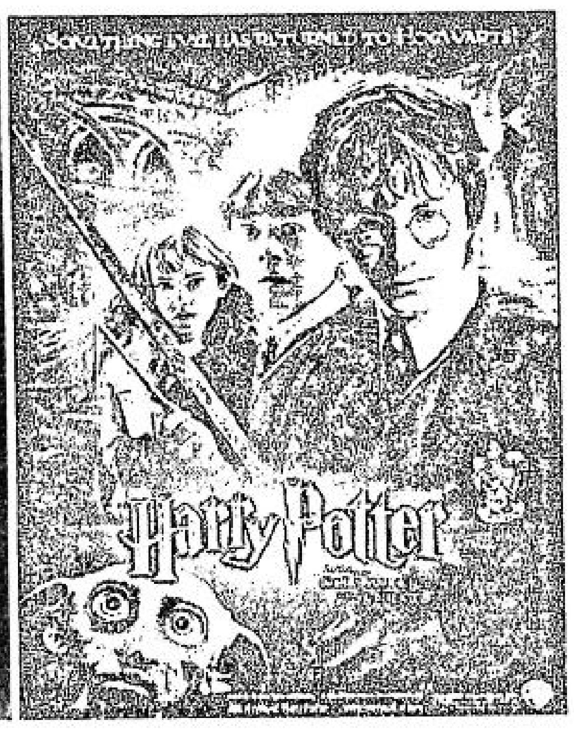
For screening times, pls. call 729-7777

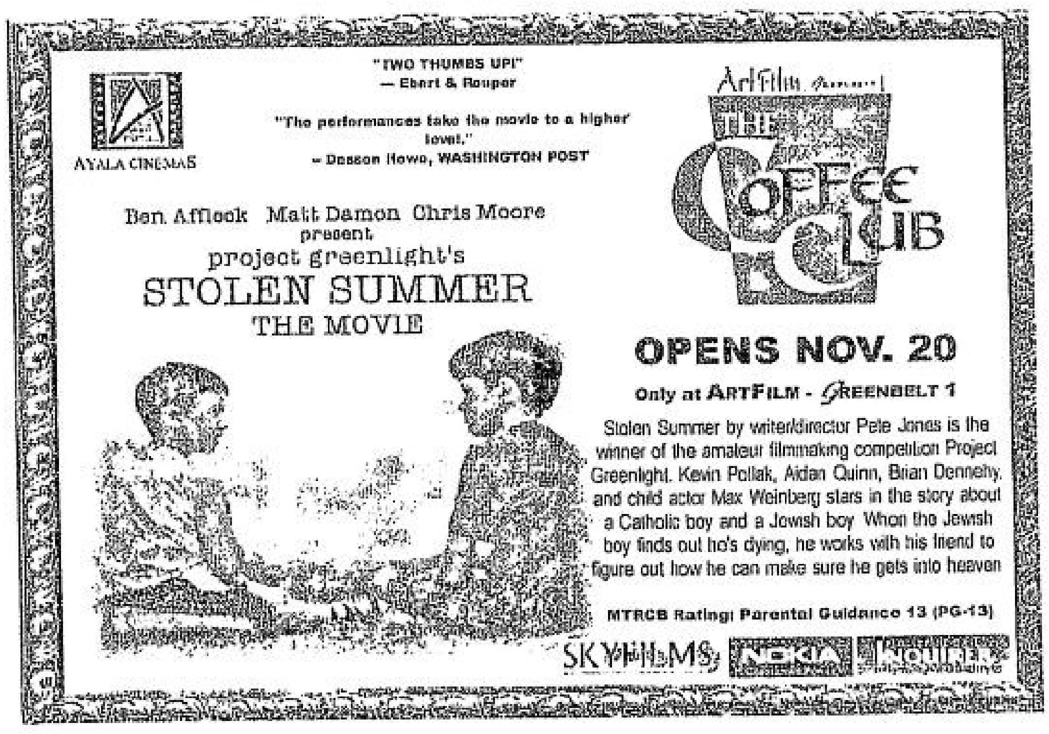
Reserve your seats by texting "SURESEATS G4" (or any Ayala Cinemas) and send to 2333.
Or log on to www.sureseats.com

MTRCB Rating: General Patronage (G)

AYALA CINEMAS



SOMETHING EVIL HAS RETURNED TO HOGWARTS
Harry Potter



AYALA CINEMAS

"TWO THUMBS UP!"
— Ebert & Roeper

"The performances take the movie to a higher level."
— Desson Howe, WASHINGTON POST

Ben Affleck Matt Damon Chris Moore
present
project greenlight's
STOLEN SUMMER
THE MOVIE

ArtFilm
THE COFFEE CLUB

OPENS NOV. 20

Only at ARTFILM - GREENBELT 1

Stolen Summer by writer/director Pete Jones is the winner of the amateur filmmaking competition Project Greenlight. Kevin Pollak, Aidan Quinn, Brian Dennehy, and child actor Max Weinberg stars in the story about a Catholic boy and a Jewish boy. When the Jewish boy finds out he's dying, he works with his friend to figure out how he can make sure he gets into heaven

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

SKYFILMS NOKIA INQUIRER

AYALA CINEMAS

"TWO THUMBS UP!"
— Ebert & Roeper

"COLIN FIRTH IS A DELIGHT & REESE WITHERSPOON ADDS SPARKLE!"
- Rollingstone

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

RUPERT EVERETT COLIN FIRTH FRANCES O'CONNOR REESE WITHERSPOON JUDI DENCH

Directed by Oliver Parker

Based on a play by Oscar Wilde

OPENS NOV. 20
ONLY AT
GLORIETTA 4
CINEMAS

Two young gentlemen (Rupert Everett & Colin Firth) living in 1890s England use the same pseudonym ("Earnest") on the sly, which is fine until they both fall in love with women using that name, which leads to a comedy of mistaken identities...

MTRCB Rating: General Patronage (G)

SKYFILMS NOKIA INQUIRER

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	BIGLANG LIKO / "O"
ODEON	HARRY POTTER
ODEON-2	SEX & ZEN / SUGAT
ROBEN	HIBLA
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	WINDTALKERS / HIGH EXPLOSIVES

QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	MASARAP NA PUGAD
REMAR	HIBLA
REMAR-2	HARRY POTTER

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	HIBLA
B	SEX FILE
C	

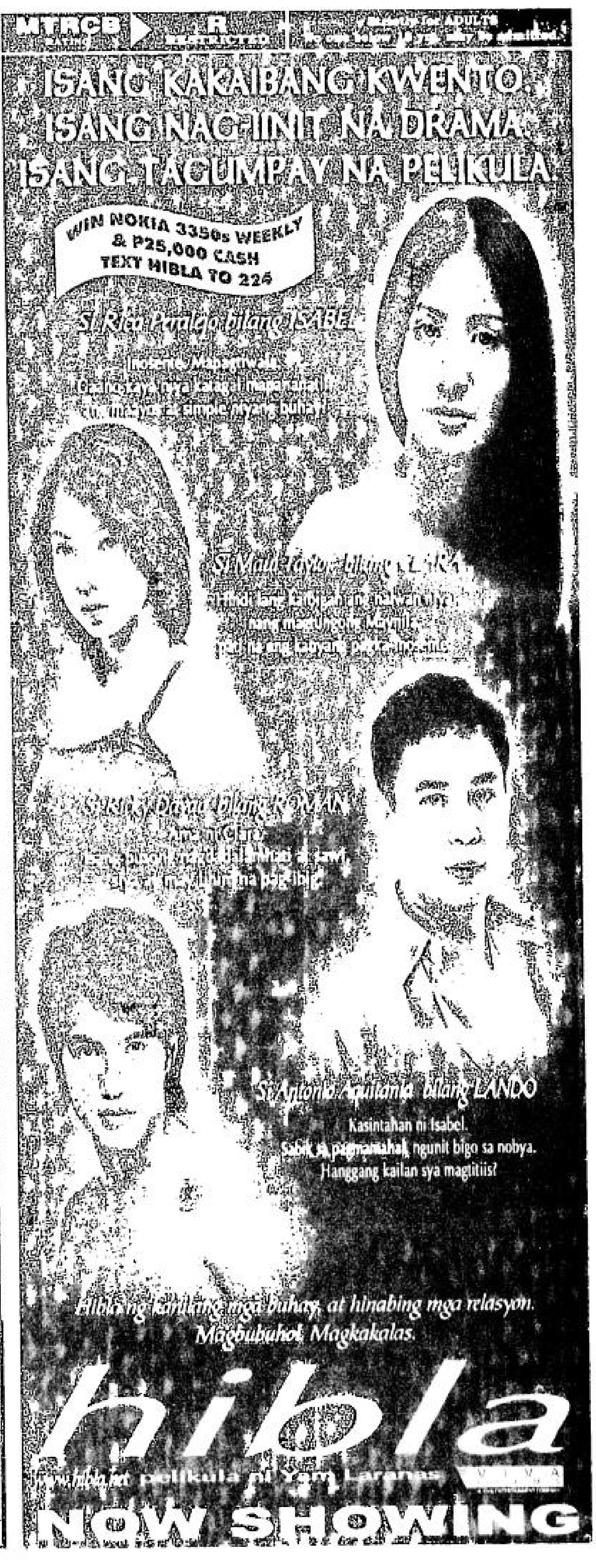
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	THE TRANSPORTER
CINEMA-2	HARRY POTTER 2

CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(661-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SEX FILES
CINEMA-2	TWO TIMER
CINEMA-3	KAILANGAN KITA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TRANSPORTER
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	CHANGING LANES
CINEMA-6	GHOST SHIP
CINEMA-7	MASARAP NA PUGAD
CINEMA-8	ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-12	HIBLA
CINEMA-14	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-15	KAILANGAN KITA

LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	MR DELOS
CINEMA 2	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA 3	BESTMAN
CINEMA 4	K 19

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA



MTRCB RATING R RESTRICTED

ISANG KAKAIBANG KWENTO.
ISANG NAG-IINIT NA DRAMA.
ISANG TAGUMPAY NA PELIKULA.
WIN NOKIA 3350s WEEKLY & P25,000 CASH TEXT HIBLA TO 224
Si Rica Peralejo bilang ISABEL
Si Antonio Aquitania bilang LANDO
Kasintahan ni Isabel.
Sabik sa pagmamahal, ngunit bigo sa nobya.
Hanggang kailan sya magtitiis?
Hibla ng kanilang mga buhay, at hinabing mga relasyon.
Magbubuhol. Magkakalas.
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www.hibla.net pelikula ni Yam Laranas
VIVA
NOW SHOWING

'The Transporter': Who cares about originality?

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.
Contributor

REVIEW

SOME people obviously think that Jason Stratham, the muscle-bound former Olympic diver of the British national team whom Guy Ritchie made an actor of in his films, "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels" and "Snatch," has the potential to be the hottest new action star in Hollywood. His latest flick, "The Transporter," is certainly the kind of "bullets, bombs and bodies" mayhem that has launched many an action star or action star wannabe (for recent reference, think Vin Diesel's "XXX").

Stratham does seem to have the stuff to make it to the big league. He has a strong screen presence and, although he doesn't have the grace of a Jet Li, he's physical enough to create a believable menace in the martial arts scenes.

Stratham is obviously doing a lot of his own stunts in the film and some of the action sequences are impressive and very realistic. But what really works for Stratham is that he doesn't look or talk like a professional actor. He has that peculiar charm of a street hustler (he did make a living as one after his days as an athlete were over), which was brilliant in Ritchie's cockney crime movies.

Unfortunately, he never gets to use that charm in "The Transporter." The hero he plays, Frank Martin, seems to have been assembled from various leftover parts of past films.

Stratham comes out looking like just another hunk in a lead role because he's not allowed to bring anything into the character. He does little more than smirk, scowl, pump lead, and kick ass—an uninteresting, walking knockoff.

Frank is an ex-commando whose quiet retirement in the South of France is bothered only

'THE TRANSPORTER'/ A28

We're giving a bigger bundle this Christmas.
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Free Installation ₱2,000
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38.1 cm. (15 inch) Black Monitor
5400RPM
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Built-in AC 97 Audio
Amplified Speaker System
Microsoft Windows Xp Home Edition
10/100 Mbps LAN Controller

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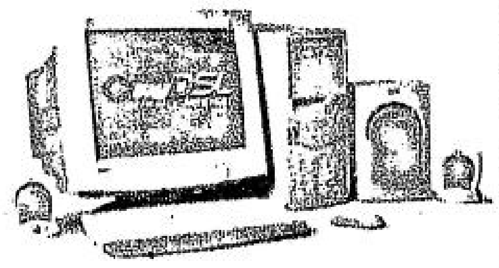
PENTIUM IV GAMER'S PACKAGE : ~~₱54,900.00~~



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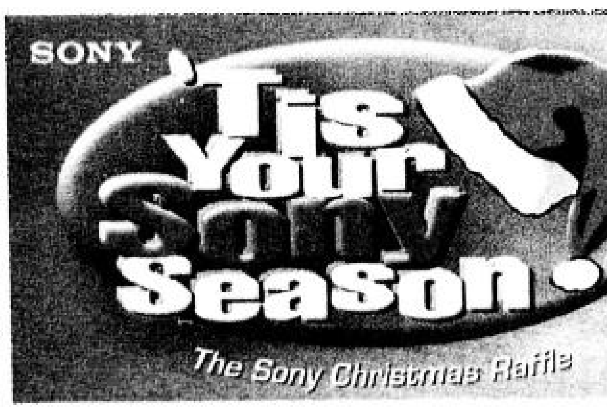

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MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 18, 2002

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

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Gov't raising inflation target for 2003

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has convinced the Development Budget Coordination Committee to adjust upward the inflation target for 2003 to a range of 4.5 to 5.5 percent from the original target of 4-5 percent.

"I think the DBCC has agreed that we have to take into consideration potential risks to inflation," said BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

Tetangco identified the risks as the potential US-Iraq conflict that could trigger an increase in crude oil prices beyond $30 a barrel, the impact of the impending El Niño weather disturbance on farm output and food prices, and a possible increase in wages.

Among the economic indicators, inflation rate is one of the more crucial to the central bank as it requires monetary authorities to meet this particular target in keeping with its mandate to keep consumer prices stable.

Starting this year, the BSP had adopted a so-called inflation targeting in making monetary policy decisions, particularly those involving the direction of the overnight rates and reserve requirements.

The inflation targeting requires the policy-making Monetary Board, through its policy directives, to achieve price stability and meet the programmed inflation that the inter-agency DBCC sets.

Under a worst-case scenario on the US-Iraq conflict wherein crude oil prices could go up to $32 per barrel, the National Economic and Development Authority had estimated that the inflation rate could average at 5.5 percent.

Since the Philippines is heavily dependent on imported fuel, an increase in crude oil prices would lead to higher pump prices and, consequently, more prohibitive cost of goods.

This scenario is based on a protracted conflict that could last from year's end to the first half of 2003 and largely assuming that the US would attack Iraq unilaterally, in which case, Saudi Arabia would not increase its crude oil production.

If Saudi Arabia would increase its crude oil production and help contain the crude oil uptick to between $27 and $30 per barrel, then inflation is seen to average at 4.6 percent next year.

Under this setting, the conflict is also expected to last only until the first quarter of 2003 wherein crude oil may start to stabilize to $25 per barrel.

Still, Tetangco pointed out that the Middle East conflict was not the sole source of upward pressure on consumer prices.

The El Niño that usually leads to prolonged drought would affect farm output and, in turn, lead to higher food prices, which is the biggest component of the consumer price index.

Also a source of risk is the possible increase in wages wherein every P12 increase in the minimum wage usually means a half-point increase in inflation.

Workers groups are petitioning for a P125 per day increase in wages across the board on the current minimum daily wage of P233 in the national capital region and P234 on the average nationwide.

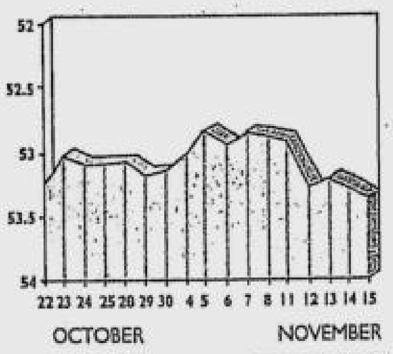
Tetangco said it would be best for the economic team to simply adopt this year's inflation target of 4.5 to 5.5 percent even for 2003.

During the first 10 months, inflation had averaged at a modest 3.2 percent after consumer prices dropped to a 30-month low of 2.6 percent in July from a high of 3.9 percent during the start of the year.

Given the prospects of a stable inflation until the early part of 2003, the central bank said it may be able to keep overnight rates steady at 7 percent for borrowing and 9.25 percent for lending.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 53.375 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Nov. 15, 2002

¥ 120.66 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Nov.15, 2002

GOLD: $318.50-319.00
per ounce Hong Kong, Nov. 15, 2002

CURRENCIES

Nov. 15, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	0.99552	1	53.338
Japan	Yen	0.008262	0.008299	0.4427
United Kingdom	Pound	1.572424	1.5795	84.2474
Hongkong	Dollar	0.127639	0.128213	6.8386
Switzerland	Franc	0.682518	0.685589	36.5679
Canada	Dollar	0.632116	0.634961	33.8675
Singapore	Dollar	0.565475	0.56802	30.2971
Australia	Dollar	0.559973	0.562493	30.0023
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.641338	2.653224	141.5177
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.265472	0.266667	14.2235
Brunei	Dollar	0.562282	0.564812	30.1259
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000111	0.000111	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.022976	0.023079	1.231
UAE	Dirham	0.271074	0.272294	14.5236
Euro	Euro	1	1.0045	53.578
Argentina	Peso	0.281221	0.282486	15.0672
Brazil	REAL	0.269496	0.270709	14.4391
Denmark	Kroner	0.134712	0.135318	7.2176
India	Rupee	0.020658	0.020751	1.1068
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.262014	0.263193	14.0382
Mexico	New Peso	0.097475	0.097914	5.2225
New Zealand	Dollar	0.497561	0.4998	26.6583
Norway	Kroner	0.136687	0.137302	7.3234
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017105	0.017182	0.9165
South Africa	Rand	0.102821	0.103284	5.509
Korea	Won	0.000828	0.000832	0.0444
Sweden	Kroner	0.110029	0.110524	5.8951
Syria	Pound	0.01933	0.019417	1.0357
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.02878	0.02891	1.542
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000727	0.00073	0.0389

STOCK MARKET

Weakness seen to persist

LOCAL stocks are seen to trade in a narrow range this week, with investor sentiment further being dampened by the P28-billion consumer refund order on utility giant Meralco as well as the coming release of the government's fiscal

WEAKNESS/ B6

Customs exceeds October target

THE BUREAU of Customs said its collection in October went up by 13.48 percent to P9.2 billion from P8.1 billion the previous month due to an uptick in imports and exports.

Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo said the bureau's collection in October was higher than the P8.7-billion target for the month.

"October is seasonally a good month for Customs because of higher exports and also higher imports," Bernardo said. This year, Customs must collect P99.6 billion, which was lower than the original target of P115.1 billion.

The 10-month collection of Customs stood at P78.784 billion, which means it must raise at least P20.816 billion in the last two months of the year to meet its revised target.

CUSTOMS/ B6

Carlo Ponzi: One of history's biggest pyramid swindlers

**By Elena R. Torrijos
and Raul C. Dancel**

BUSINESS 101

EDITOR'S NOTE: *To help our readers better understand economics news, the* INQUIRER *is introducing* Business 101. *We begin this new item with information on Charles Ponzi, regarded as one of history's biggest swindlers.*

LAST week, the INQUIRER published a series of articles on a "Ponzi" scam allegedly run by Multitel, a company controlled by a one-time clerk who came close to buying one of Makati's premiere buildings.

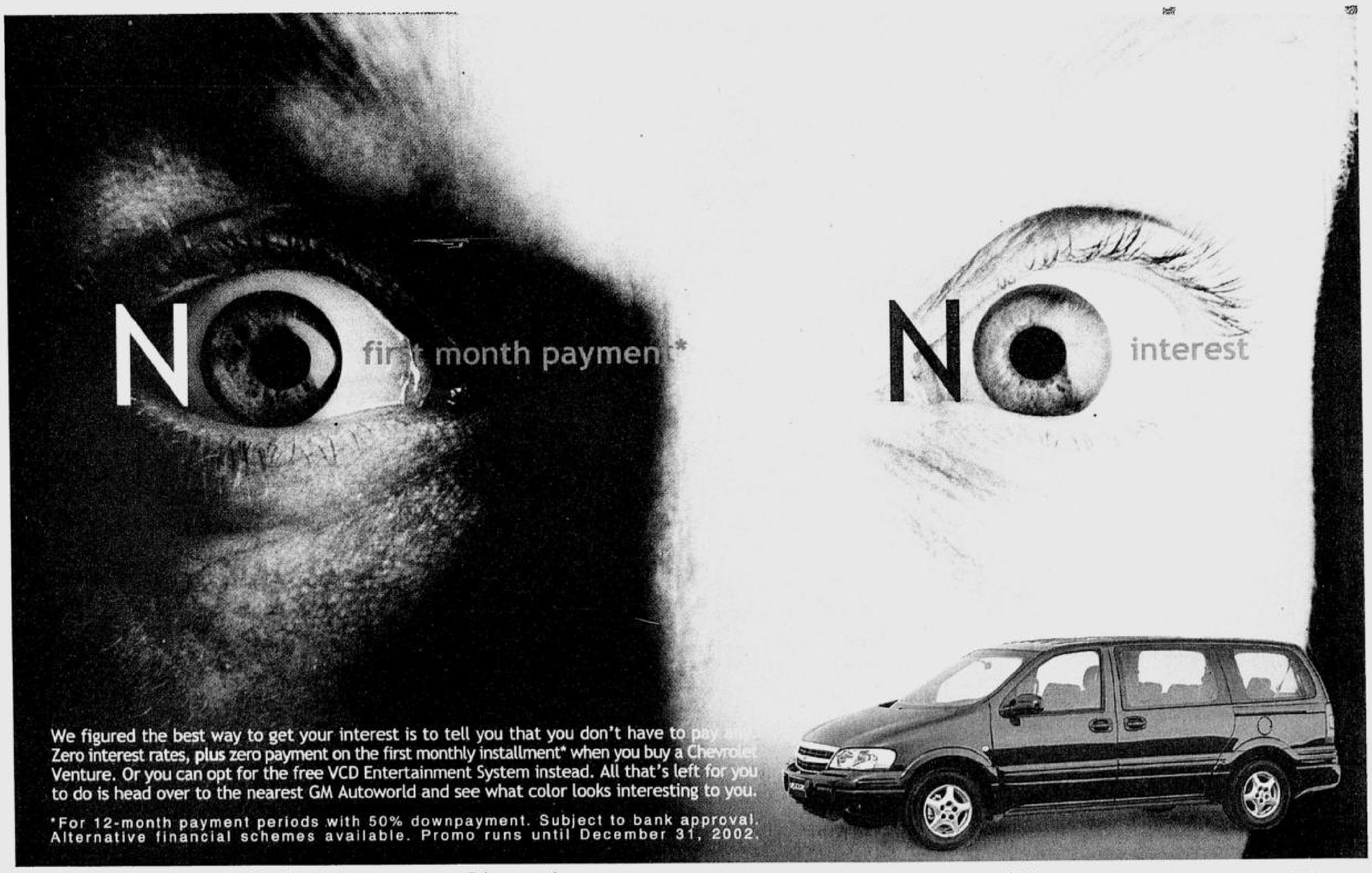
Interestingly, this racket isn't a new one. It has been around since the early 1900s, yet it continues to dupe millions by feeding on greed and ignorance and morphing into very elaborate and creative schemes to make itself seem legitimate.

The basic principles, however, remain the same.

A Ponzi scheme is a pyramid-type racket that works on the "rob-Peter-to-pay-Paul" principle, as money from new investors are used to pay off earlier investors until the whole scheme collapses.

The scam was named after Carlo "Charles" Ponzi, an Italian immigrant who, in 1920, raked in an estimated $15 million in eight months by persuading tens of thousands of

CARLO/ B8



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Transparency through efficient networking

MINDANAO ONE

Joji Ilagan-Bian

SO MUCH has been said and written about the tremendous financial losses incurred by the government due to corruption that people seem to have accepted it as a way of life. Indeed, the constant repetition of stories on corruption makes the topic dull and ordinary. It has become the glaring truth—not even a bitter pill to swallow.

Mindanawons have long suffered from cases of corruption related to social services and the construction of physical infrastructure. A "conservative" estimate places the financial loss to corruption at 20 percent for all transactions and projects. Try to imagine applying that figure versus the national budget—then you would have the idea that this is not mere child's play. For an island group that has half of its population wallowing in poverty, a cynical approach to combating corruption only adds up to its woes.

The various stakeholders in Mindanao have long recognized that transparent governance is the key to reducing—if not totally eliminating—institutional corruption and the blatant malversation of the public bourse. The Mindanao Business Council, with the invaluable assistance of The Asia Foundation and the USAID-GEM Program, has linked up with government agencies and non-government organizations in forming a broad front geared toward that end.

We have seen supposed task forces against corruption rise up in the past, only to be thrown to the dustbins of history once they encounter bottlenecks and institutional barriers. Their efforts have bogged down or have merely been turned into witch-hunting exercises. Futility and bush beating could best describe the high water marks of their efforts. Factionalism, too, gives unnecessary friction to such efforts.

The exorcism of corruption starts with public awareness and participation in the drive to achieve transparent governance. We have joined hands with the Mindanao Coalition of Development NGO's (Mincode), the Mindanao Economic Development Council (Medco), the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), the local government units of key Mindanao cities, and the local business chambers in creating a formidable anti-corruption body.

We have laid down common issues and action agenda in the consultations that we are doing in the key Mindanao cities of Davao, Iligan, Surigao, and Dapitan. The results of these consultations will be consolidated during the 2nd Mindanao Forum on Transparent Governance on Dec. 4-5, 2002, at the Waterfront Insular Hotel in Davao City.

Transparency will certainly help reduce the cost of doing business by doing away with red tape and nefarious transactions. It is also incumbent upon the citizenry to keep a tab on how their elected and non-elected officials exercise their sworn duties and responsibilities. Elected and non-elected government officials may go haywire if vigilance is non-existent.

Another factor that may contribute to corruption is the mindset of most of our citizens that their honorable elected officials are their lords and the inevitable masters of their fate. It should be emphasized that elected officials are accountable to their constituents—that a public office is a public trust. The avid re-engineering of such a mindset is surely one way out of the vicious cycle of poverty and "dole out" mentality usually found in the countryside.

People may be wondering why Mindanawons are this eager to embark on a transparent governance crusade. Lest we are misunderstood, our campaign is not about government official bashing. It is more about enhancing the participation of the citizenry in the affairs of the government, to make them feel that they do have a stake in their future, and that they could make government a trusted ally in their socio-economic development aspirations.

Our transparent governance campaign also makes it a point to show government officials that a clean slate in their service readily translates to an increase in their public approval ratings and possible reelection. It is about doing good, looking good, and feeling good.

For an island group considered to be the melting pot of the diverse Filipino cultures, Mindanao offers the best opportunity to make the campaign a successful one. In a place where Filipinos with different origins mix and have carved out their destinies by toiling in the fields and by being involved in various industries, there is a feeling that WE CAN MAKE A BETTER FUTURE FOR THE COMING GENERATIONS.

Our transparent governance campaign shows us that, yes, we can make our government work for the people in the truest essence of democracy. It also shows us that the spirit of cooperation is alive in the Mindanawons—all joining hands to say that there is really ONE VOICE, ONE MINDANAO.

(Joji Ilagan-Bian is the chairperson of the Mindanao Business Council and country director of the East Asean Business Council)

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"MAKING THE WORLD A SMALLER PLACE"

(Speech delivered by Mr. Carlos R. Araneta, Chair, LBC Group of Companies,
at the Business Conference of the 1st Global Filipino Community Networking Convention held at Moscone Center in San Francisco on August 31, 2002)

"The greatest revolution of our time is in the way we see the world."

Thus wrote author-teacher-ecologist Joanna Macy. "This realization changes everything. It changes our perception of who we are and what we need, and how we can trustfully act together for a decent noble future."

Good afternoon. I am Carlos R. Araneta, Chairman of the LBC Group of Companies. I stand before you today to share with you the way I see the world and how this worldview has helped me guide LBC to where it is today and where it will go in the future.

I feel very strongly that business must not be spurred by financial gain alone, but that it must integrate into its system a sound philosophy that will underpin all its directions, relationships and practices. This is the great challenge for business. As Robert Townsend said, "Money, like prestige, sought directly is almost never gained. It must come as a by-product of some worthwhile objective or result that is sought for its own sake."

In trying to make sense of recent world events, one is struck by the incomprehensible way in which the world continues to seek division. It chooses to focus on things that divide and alienate rather than on things that draw together. Just take a look at how we look at the ocean. Instead of seeing the ocean as something that links countries and continents, people choose to see it as something that separates.

I am certain that if any one of us were to be in outer space, we would not see boundary lines between the USA and Canada, nor between North Korea and South Korea, not even between Negros Oriental and Negros Occidental. The boundaries we know are only those found in our minds and in demographic maps, geographical maps, political maps and other such maps, which are drawn by man: these are demarcations that are wrought by ideology and circumstance.

At LBC we strive to ignore the boundaries that separate and choose to make the world a smaller place by ensuring connectivity. LBC exists to connect people to people - to bridge the distances between them and to keep relationships alive. A service company that has been connecting people in and to the Philippines via the delivery of cargo and remittances, LBC has been around for the past 52 years.

Very early on we recognized that the uneven distribution of resources and unequal opportunities for development have forced and continue to force people to seek growth and advancement in other places through migration - migration from rural areas to urban areas (from Talisay to Cebu City; from Tawi-Tawi to Zamboanga City in Mindanao; or even from Aparri or Tandag to Manila); or from the Philippines to other countries and to different continents - Asia, Europe and America.

The migrant Filipino, regardless of
*whether he travels from Jolo to Manila, or from Carigara to Hong Kong, or from Silay to Madrid;

*or is a doctor who works as a nurse in the hospitals in Chicago or San Francisco;

*or if he leaves home as an encoder, programmer, or an artist
does so at great personal cost or sacrifice and with only one thing in mind - to improve his economic and financial situation and thereby provide education and a better life for relatives back home.

In providing our services, we have become a vital cogwheel in the familial effort to bring the benefits of progress to family members who due to economic circumstances are compelled to live apart. We have made our country a smaller place for Filipinos living in the cities by facilitating the delivery of their earnings to their relatives in the rural areas who need support. We have connected them to each other by delivering their letters, documents and goods. For this, we have established over 500 branches throughout the archipelago and operate over a thousand vehicles from Aparri to Tawi-Tawi.

BUILDING THE NETWORK

Having a clear understanding of the migration patterns of Filipinos in the Philippines or of Filipinos all over the world, and adhering to the philosophy of making the world a smaller place for Filipinos we established our first office in San Francisco in 1986 and from here we established over 50 offices in the Western hemisphere of North America from Vancouver, Canada to San Diego. We have also set-up offices in New Jersey, Washington, Nevada, Virginia, Hawaii and other states which are densely populated with Filipinos. In Europe we have several offices in Spain, Italy and very soon in England. In Asia, we are in Hongkong, Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, Saipan and soon we shall also be in Australia.

Not only are we making the world a smaller place for Filipinos with our traditional services, but we continue to painstakingly find new ways of bringing homes and people closer. We offer travel services and carry the news about the Philippines, even from the rural areas, in our weekly newspaper, The Manila Bulletin USA, and its web site, www.mbulletin-usa.com

Soon, we will be embarking on an ambitious project that will, through technology, further connect people. In partnership with local Telcos we have wired or placed on line all our offices and over 40 nodes throughout the Philippines to link overseas Filipinos with their families in the Philippines. This project which we call LBC@HomeAccess is basically a subscription agreement entered into by LBC and the overseas Filipino whereby we provide the latter's relatives in the Philippines with a personal computer, Internet access, email access and free service minutes of VOIP. This service is to be paid for by the overseas Filipino who can easily afford the subscription based on their dollar income.

Dollar remittances to the Philippines are merely the tip of the iceberg. Yes. Roughly $32 billion was the annual after tax disposable income of the Fil-Ams in the USA alone for the year 2000 and that is almost half of the $64.2 billion GDP of the Philippines for the same year. $32 billion is the purchasing power of roughly 2.3 million Filipino- Americans. This is why such businesses as Goldilocks and Jollibee, which are focused on the Filipino market, are successful in the USA. If the Fil-Ams or even the Filipino entrepreneurs can appreciate the magnitude of such a purchasing power, one would readily understand the expediency of doing business with the Fil-Ams. On our part, we have established eLBC Direct to partner with Filipino entrepreneurs who want to sell real estate, financial, insurance, and pre-need services to our own strong LBC customer base. These should be products and services to be financed by the Fil-Ams for the benefit of Filipinos in the Philippines.

LBC IN THE COMMUNITY

Since I view the world as a small place with no boundaries, I cannot but acknowledge the interconnectedness of people. How it is that in being there for each other, the world can be a smaller place, a global village with the family within arms reach. That is why we have established the LBC Foundation with its Kababayan Alliance Program (KAP) that is intended to support Filipino communities all over and the weekly magazine, Kababayan Edition, a companion of The Manila Bulletin USA. This is also why LBC is a major sponsor of the first ever Global Networking Convention and why I stand before you sharing the story of LBC - because it is a story of a kind of human connectivity.

As I stated earlier, the challenge of every business is to go beyond its self-serving objective, to seek and be guided by a broader philosophy - a philosophy that becomes the basis for a passionate commitment from which it will not deviate.

We are a Filipino company committed to serving the Filipino wherever he or she may be, and in whatever country he or she may now call home. We are committed to bridging the distances between people and keeping their cherished relationships alive, and to making the world a smaller place for them. And we shall continue to do so by finding newer and better ways of doing away with the barriers that keep people apart, and of strengthening the Filipino links that tie us to each other and bring us here today.

Thank you all, for your time and attention.

Metrobank raises $125M from bond issue

METROPOLITAN Bank and Trust Co. successfully raised $125 million last week in the international capital markets with a 10-year Lower Tier 2 bond issue.

It was the first public subordinated debt issue in the Philippines and opens the international capital markets for other Philippine banks looking to strengthen their capital base. The bonds have been registered in Singapore and will pay a semi-annual coupon of 8.5 percent. UBS Warburg acted as sole bookrunner.

The issue was more than 1.5 times subscribed with 60 percent of the demand coming from international institutional investors. A successful roadshow was conducted by Metrobank's senior executives led by its president, Antonio S. Abacan Jr., in Manila, Singapore, Hong Kong, and London.

The 10-year bond issue, which is callable on the 5th year, was tightly priced at 92 basis points over the Republic of the Philippines' 2008 bond (5-year benchmark). The issue was aggressively priced considering that Lower Tier 2 usually carries up to 100 basis points in spread over senior debt because of its subordinated nature.

With a fresh $125 million in capital, Metrobank has now increased its capital adequacy ratio. Proceeds will be invested in low-risk, high-yielding US dollar-denominated instruments in order to eliminate any negative carry from the issue.

"The issue further strengthened our capital base and will allow us to take advantage of a strong Philippine economic performance in the coming years," Abacan said.

A landmark for the Philippine banking system, the transaction has paved the way for local banks to tap an entirely new investor base in the international capital markets. The strong demand for the issue from international investors was a testament to the global investor community's belief in a Philippine bank and the country's economic recovery, Abacan said.

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Low times in Highlands

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE VIP owners of Erap-era log cabins in Tagaytay Highlands are steaming over taipan Henry Sy's plan to build a cluster of condos overlooking their otherwise secluded cabins.

According to the grapevine, a letter-writing campaign is already underway among the aggrieved residents, who include such stellar names as former Trade and Industry Secretary Jose Pardo, Megaworld's Andrew Tan, businessman Manuel Zamora, radio magnate Luis Vera and Bro. Mike Velarde.

At the time they snapped up the P27-million plus-plus weekend retreats, Pardo and company thought that the neighborhood would be reserved to single-detached houses with Forbes Park-sized lots precisely to preserve the club's exclusivity and anonymity.

Now, the planned Woodridge condo cluster would not only have a commanding view of their backyards and bedrooms, the condo units are even being offered for about P13 million each, half the price of the original neighborhood barrier.

Woodridge is still very much in the blueprint but already around 20 units have been pre-sold, according to one account. Its architecture should not deviate much from the Bavarian-looking PineCrest cluster of condos further down the sprawling mountain.

According to the pro-Sy grapevine, Tatang, as the taipan is fondly called, is not hamstrung by any environmental or deed of restrictions in developing Woodridge. Woodridge is actually a project of Highlands Prime, a spin-off and now distinct from Belle Corp., the developer of Tagaytay Highlands, from whom Pardo and company acquired the log cabins.

According to the grapevine, Pardo had tried to enlist ex-Tagaytay Highlands kingpin Roberto Ongpin but the latter politely declined to get himself embroiled in another stockholders' dispute, preferring instead to enjoy his semi-retirement in the company of good wine and sweet young things.

The pro-Tatang grapevine also claimed that the shopping mall magnate has no choice, given the deflationary clouds looming on the global horizon, but to move downmarket if he were to put value in his newly listed Highlands Prime.

Steak a la Pobre

ANGUS steak lovers have reason to rejoice.

After months of renovation, Melo's will reopen today the landmark Greenbelt steakhouse. The not-so-good news is that owner Carmelo Santiago had been forced to shrink floor space by 40 percent because of soaring rent and reduced corporate spending.

Melo's will now append Steak Factory to the shingle, in reference to the family's budget-friendly steak chain. With P250/steak as hook, Melo's hopes to broaden the market and entice the junior executive set to eventually graduate to the pricier Angus offerings.

The steak house is lucky to reopen. The other fine-dining neighbor, Via Mare, has shut down the restaurant, and would just maintain the coffee shop behind it and a reduced Oyster Bar in the new Greenbelt 3.

The other landmark neighbor, Café Rizal, a fixture since Rizal Theatre days in the Sixties in its original location (in what is now the Makati Shangri-La), has also permanently closed, felled by Starbucks, Indios with reduced wallets, and Castilaloy landlords.

GMA promise fulfilled

THE P1-MILLION bonus that President Macapagal-Arroyo promised to the Bayanihan dancers had already been delivered, contrary to what appeared in this space on Nov. 11, this we got from Suzie Moya Benitez, executive director of the Bayanihan Folks Arts Foundation.

The Philippine Women's University-based dance troupe paid Malacañang a courtesy call sometime in March after winning an international folk festival in Sicily. During the call, an elated GMA promised the jubilant dancers a P1-million bonus.

"After complying with the requirements and providing the necessary papers," Malacañang released the presidential incentive. Benitez did not indicate when the Bayanihan actually received the Malacañang money, except to say that "the processing of the papers was very fast."

What is important, she said, is that "President Arroyo did fulfill her promise and Bayanihan did get the prize."

Heard through the grapevine

PARALLEL importer Lucio Co has put his Fontana resort and casino on the block. Co controls 90 percent of the Clark resort, with PLDT chair Antonio "Tony-boy" Cojuangco holding the balance of 10 percent.

The Ho Chi Minh-goateed Co apparently wants to devote his energies to his Pure Gold retail empire, rather than endlessly listen to customer complaints about mosquito-ridden cottages and slow room service. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

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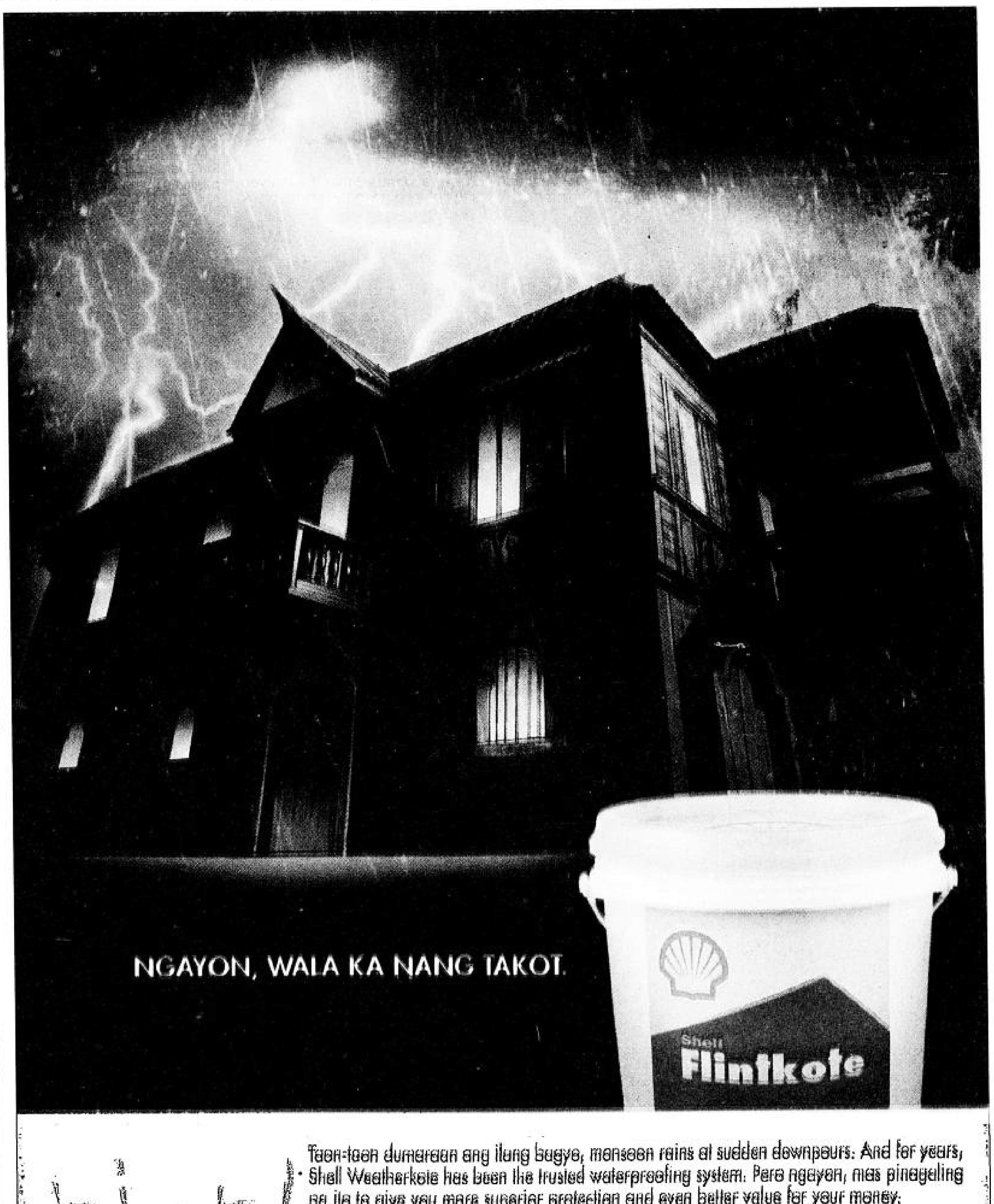

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Pre-need sales down 13.3%

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE PRE-NEED industry suffered declines in the number and the gross contract price of plans sold in the first nine months of this year, partly stemming from the negative publicity some pre-need companies suffered in the third quarter of this year.

Despite this, the pre-need companies were able to collect more than they did last year driven largely by the demand for pension plans.

"That means we are still growing in terms of sales because we have repositioned to an annual payment mode instead of monthly or quarterly mode. This means we are servicing a slightly richer market," said Miguel Vasquez, president of the Philippine Federation of Pre-need Plan Companies Inc. "Even last year, pension already started to grow faster than education and life."

In a report, the Securities and Exchange Commission non-traditional securities and instruments department, which supervises the pre-need industry, said that the total number of plans sold in the first nine months of this year dropped 13.31 percent to 457,859 from 528,139 registered in the same period last year.

The worst decline came from the month of September, in particular following reports in media that some pre-need companies had incurred trust fund deficiencies.

The declines came from across the whole range of pre-need plans: education, life and pension.

The number of education plans sold during the nine-month period went down 16.11 percent to 148,272 from 176,754. Life plans or memorial plans purchased by the public plunged 30 percent to 50,512 from 72,230 while the number of pension plans sold also fell 7.19 percent to 259,075 from 279,155 during the reference period.

In terms of gross contract price, the amount of pre-need plans sold remained rather flat at P29.65 billion from P29.79 billion last year.

The increase in the gross contract price of pension plans sold offset the reductions encountered with education and life plans.

The contract price of pension plans grew 12 percent to P17.948 billion, that of education plans decreased 11.49 percent to P10.237 billion while education plans dropped 33.55 percent to P1.464 billion.

On the measure of initial collections, again, pre-need companies did well on pension plans.

As a whole, total initial collections of pre-need companies rose 15.57 percent to P2.94 billion from P2.544 billion. Initial collections or the first year premiums paid by planholders for pension plans grew by 36.77 percent to P1.765 billion. This more than offset the 4-percent decline in initial collections for education plans and the 17.63-percent declines in initial collections for life plans.

Why do gov't offices prefer cash?

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

THE INSURANCE industry is practically a cashless society. Every invoice asks the client to "please issue the check in favor of the company." Only a very small percentage of the total premiums are collected in cash.

Executive salary, and, in some cases, even rank-and-file payroll is paid through a bank. Companies always pay for major purchases by checks. The petty cash fund of a few thousand pesos, usually managed by the cashier, is for quick disbursements on small items.

The use of checks instead of cash is sound money management. Cash is exposed to what insurance companies call the risks of destruction, disappearance and dishonesty. Nobody steals a check payable to the company. If a check is stolen or lost, you can always ask the drawer to issue you another check.

So, why do some government offices prefer to be paid in cash? These offices warn the citizen, "No personal checks, please." I can see why a residence certificate, which for most citizens costs only a small sum, should be paid in cash. But the real estate tax, or a license fee, which can run to a sizeable amount, also has to be paid in cash or by manager's check. The government office requires a manager's check to make sure it does not bounce. But who is the crazy citizen who will fight City Hall by paying his taxes with a bouncing check?

One begins to wonder why cash is preferred. The most curious of all is the collection of the domestic passenger terminal fee by the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA). At this point, let me hasten to say that I favor the fee. Anybody who takes a plane out of Manila must pay a fee for the use of the terminal facilities.

In the beginning, you paid the fee along with the fare when you bought the ticket, either by cash of credit card, at the airline office. Later, you could not charge the terminal fee to your credit card. You had to pay it in cash. In due time, the airline sent a check to MIAA.

Today, the collection system has completely changed. You pay the fee, now at P100 (up from the original P50) per passenger, at the airport. First you check in your ticket at the airline counter. Then you show the ticket to the uniformed lady cashier at one of several MIAA collection booths and pay P100 cash. You get a numbered official receipt. At the gate to the pre-departure area, an MIAA uniformed employee inspects your receipt and takes off a stub. At the gate for boarding, another uniformed employee inspects your receipt and takes off another stub.

Presumably, each cashier has to make out a report on her collections. The report has to be reconciled with the two sets of stubs. The reconciliation will have to be checked and doubly checked, audited and doubly audited, and finally the cash is deposited, probably under guard, at the airport bank. This process is repeated three shifts a day at each collection booth. The collection system has spawned an entirely new bureaucracy.

How much cash is involved? On an average day, 5,000 people fly out of the domestic terminals. At P100 per passenger, this means MIAA is collecting P500,000 cold cash every day, or P182,500,000 a year. That is a lot of cash exposed to the risks of destruction, disappearance and dishonesty. Will MIAA be able to account for all that cash?

You wonder why the airlines are no longer the collecting agents for the terminal fee. Maybe, the airlines wanted out of the deal. But certainly, a mutually agreeable tie-up could have been hammered out. Or maybe, MIAA wants the cash for some other reason. But let's not go into that.

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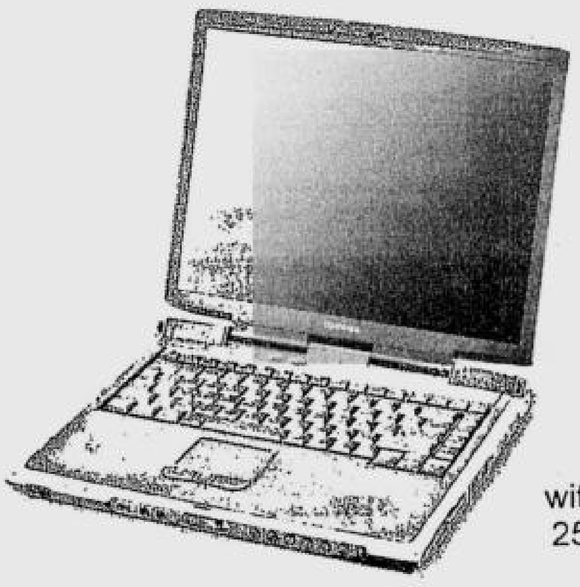

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A soft spot for Greenspan

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

I ASKED one of my friends why Benpres had defaulted six times this year. He is not an analyst but an expert in Feng Shui and some of the other martial arts. By profession, he is a seismologist, which means according to his wife, that he can make the earth move. His particular field is volcanoes and he graduated MAGMA CUM LAUDE. Unfortunately, he took the exam in winter otherwise he would have graduated SUMMER CUM LAUDE. He studied under Richter, who was a heavy man weighing 240 pounds. He spent three months on top of Mount Mayon, by which time he could speak fluent Mayonnaise. He planted trees when the lava had cooled and these became known as lava trees, or CR's, as you call them. By the way, all this is totally irrelevant. What is important is that Benpres House is on a default line so it is not default of the company that they cannot pay their debts.

Scientists in the weather bureau, who predict weather it will rain tomorrow, are complaining that this is the wettest El Niño on record. Can anyone explain this to me?

I apologize to those readers who wrote to me at halloween.com. I thought they would realize it was a joke, being Halloween that week. My address is, of course, hotmale.com. Limerick time:

A brazen young lade of Wimley,
Reproached for not acting more primly,
Answered, "Heavens above!
I know sex isn't love,
But it's such an attractive facsimile."

* * *

There was a young girl from St. Paul
Wore a newspaper dress at a ball;
But her dress caught on fire
And burned her entire
Front page, sporting section and all.

* * *

Iraq has accepted the UN resolution in a reply, which includes a vitriolic attack on President Bush, who is very skeptical, and I think there will be war by January, though I hope I am wrong. Light crude oil futures have dropped from over $30 a barrel to $24.46. If there is conflict, oil prices will rise, specially if he attacks Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti oilfields with his Scud missiles, as he might well do in desperation. Should this happen, oil prices will soar. I think the best investment at present is to BUY 3-month oil futures. Low risk but enormous profit potential. However, you need a dollar account and a US broker. Call Merrill Lynch, not me.

Owing to the change over from Summer time to Winter time, Wall Street opens an hour later, too late for me to sit up half the night to listen to Alan Greenspan. Nevertheless, I have a transcript of his prepared remarks together with some of his replies. It is far too long to reproduce as it runs to four pages. However, the gist of it is that there are signs of softness in the economy, and the Federal Reserve cut rates by an unexpected 50 basis points, in order to demonstrate their accommodative stance of monetary policy. "However, incoming economic data have tended to confirm that greater uncertainty, in part attributable to heightened geopolitical risks, is currently inhibiting spending, production and employment. Inflation and inflation expectations remain well contained, and still-robust underlying growth in productivity, is providing important ongoing support to economic activity."

In the question-and-answer portion, Greenspan reiterated that the Fed would continue to be accommodative but that sufficient had been done for now. However, if further cuts were needed, they would be forthcoming. He thought it extremely improbable that the US would follow Japan in reducing interest rates to zero. He also denied that the economy might be entering a deflationary phase.

I feel I should explain that low inflation is ideal. It means that when you get married and buy a house on a 20-year mortgage, this investment will increase in value quite substantially. When your children are married and you and your spouse prefer to live in an apartment, you can sell your house at a handsome profit and this will provide you with a nest egg for your retirement. In the US, the enormous increase in the value of property has saved many stock market investors from total disaster, and the same thing is happening in the UK.

If you go into a deflationary spiral, as Japan has done, prices continue to fall month after month, year after year, and the result is a 12-year recession, which shows signs of worsening. The NIKKEI is at a 19-year low, having fallen about 78 percent since 1989. Companies cannot raise prices so they continue to layoff workers, which reduces consumer spending, which lowers demands, which reduces profits further, which means more bankruptcies and layoffs, and the cycle goes on endlessly. Inflation is controllable, but deflation is long-term and almost terminal, so it must be avoided at all costs.

On a lighter note, it has been suggested that Greenspan increase the money supply by dropping $100 bills from helicopters. Also, to boost consumer spending, the Treasury should issue dollar bills, which self-destruct after 30 days. So if you don't use it, you lose it. The SEC Chair, Harvey Pitt, has resigned but there are still many pit bulls.

On Thursday, our market had its quietest day ever, with net turnover, excluding cross sales, of P57 million, pathetic. Hopefully, the PSE will now consider my request to open only on Wednesdays. ALI produced profits up 4 percent, which was in line with expectation, and the shares barely moved. However, Credit Lyonnais has downgraded the stock to a SELL, as it sees no growth for the next three years. Its price target is P4 against a current price of P5.

I presume the same rating will apply to AC, which produced profits up 5 percent but warned that momentum might not be maintained. So again we have the prospect of flat earnings. The shares are P4.55.

SMPH just announced third-quarter profits up 9 percent from revenue up 12 percent. Two malls are opening in Cagayan de Oro and Bicutan this month and are almost 100-percent leased. As the fourth quarter is usually the best, SMPH should continue its 10-percent growth, with earnings of 40 centavos per share.

Jollibee pleased the market with its third-quarter results and is predicting 15-percent growth this year. The shares remained unchanged at P14.

FLI announced profits for the 3rd quarter fell 47 percent on lower sales and interest income. Sales fell a third from P288 million to P197 million, and net income from P138 million to P72 million. Interest income dropped 60 percent after the company redeemed $100 million of convertible bonds. The results were slightly below expectations and the shares eased a few centavos.

Earnings of FPH slumped despite an increase of 10 percent in sales. Expenses rose from P2 billion to P3.65 billion, as operating and maintenance costs tripled from P771 million to P2.64 billion. The shares reacted slightly to P12.50, but subscribers were out long ago.

Benpres announced a 3rd quarter loss of P370 million against a profit of P527 million a year ago. For the 9-month period, the loss widened from P182 million to P450 million. The company has debts of $600 million. The shares fell back to their all-time low.

These announcements will do nothing to sustain the market and I remain completely liquid.

Late news

It is a sad day for holders of MERALCO stock. Just after the market closed the Supreme Court unanimously ordered the company to repay

MR. BEARBULL/ B6

PSE sets new rules to ease share sale

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange is drafting a new set of listing guidelines that would make it easier for a company to issue new shares to a third party investor.

The new rules are aimed at avoiding a repeat of the protracted legal debate over the Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc. issue.

However, the proposed revisions would maintain stiff safety nets if the transactions involve "related" parties or if the new shares to be sold amount to at least 10 percent of the total issued and outstanding shares.

The new framework, which has been drafted by the PSE's listing department, has been opened for public feedback and will soon be presented for PSE board approval.

"The rule is more stringent on related parties. I guess the risk of a related party doing transactions at the expense of others is higher," PSE president Ernest Leung said in a press briefing.

Claudine Cruz, supervisor of the PSE listing department, said the distinction made between related and independent transactions and the additional flexibility to the latter should "balance the decision of the minority and majority stockholders."

The new guidelines define "related parties" as: affiliates of the listed issuer when using the equity method of accounting; trusts for the benefit of employees such as pension and profit-sharing plans that

PSE/ B7

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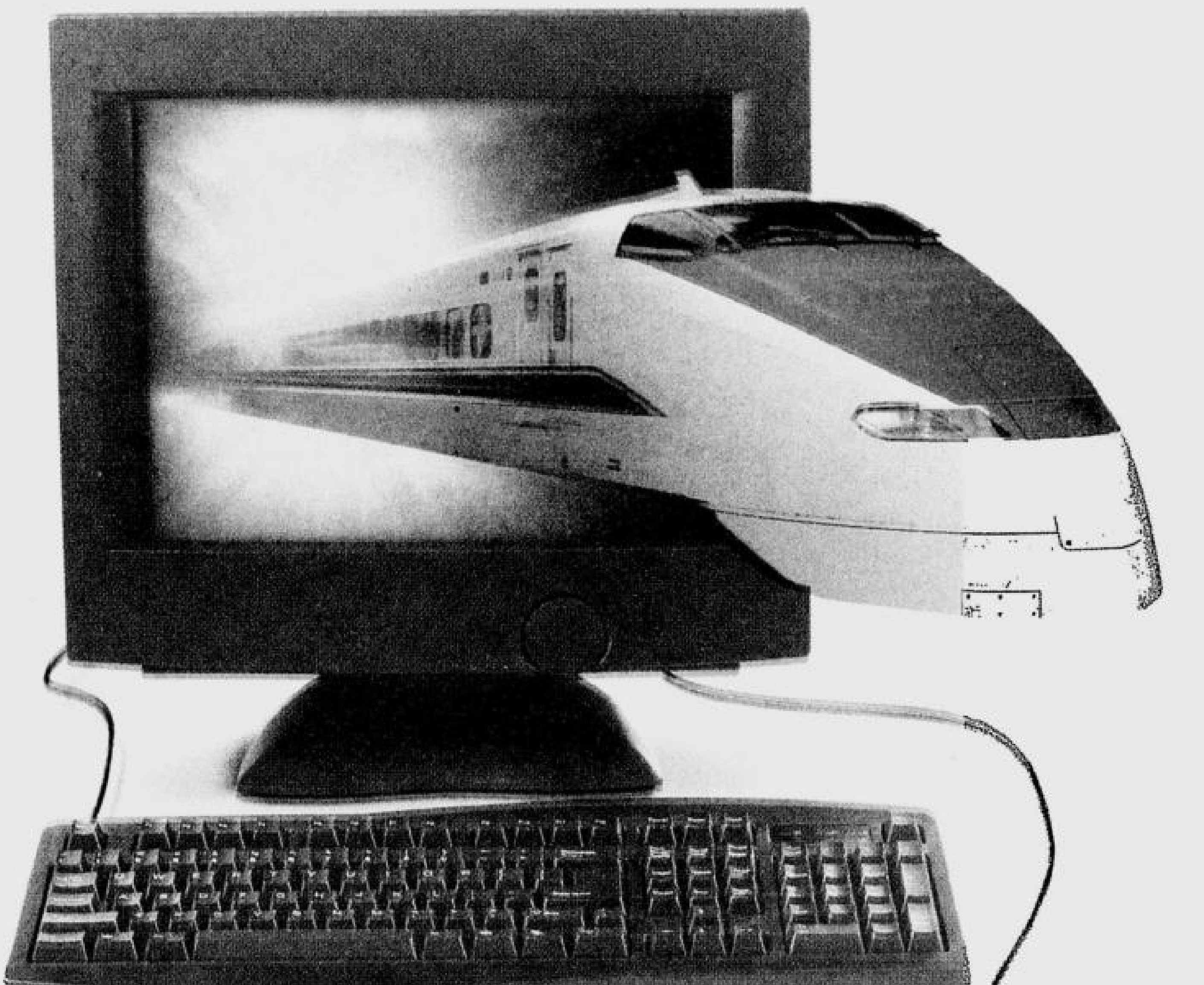

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GLOBE TELECOM

Bourse seen missing profit target due to weak economy

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE SLUGGISH investor interest in the stock market has imposed a heavy toll on the earnings of the Philippine Stock Exchange, which recently converted from a non-stock into a profit-oriented stock corporation.

In a press briefing, PSE president Ernest Leung said the local bourse was not likely to hit its full-year net income target based on preliminary unaudited results for the first nine months of the year.

Leung said the PSE's revenues stood at P120 million from January to September this year, significantly below the full-year target of P180 million. He conceded that it would not be feasible to chalk up P60 million in the last quarter to meet its target.

"We are falling short of targets," Leung said. "We expect to be significantly below the yearend targets."

The bulk of the PSE's earnings usually comes from listings. With the difficult economic environment, however, the local stock market has not seen much initial public offerings or listing of additional shares this year.

The target for the full year is to generate P100 million from new listings, but the PSE has so far generated P63 million in the first nine months.

On the expenditure side, however, Leung said the PSE had managed to spend below programmed levels due to various cost-cutting measures.

For the first nine months, he said expenditures amounted to P88 million against the full-year budget of P153 million.

Leung said reduced spending was made possible because the introduction of afternoon trading did not happen until March. Due to the depressed market activity, the PSE has also recently decided to revert to half-day trading.

But Leung said the PSE would still end up operating in the black and post a modest net profit for the full year, although lower than the target of P35 million.

He said extraordinary income from various investments should offset the cost of depreciation and other expenses.

To date, the PSE is not in a hurry to go into the next phase of its demutualization program—conduct its own IPO and dilute the shareholdings of brokers as mandated by the law—because it was still trying to improve its earnings prospects. It is still preparing the business plan for its own public debut in the near future.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

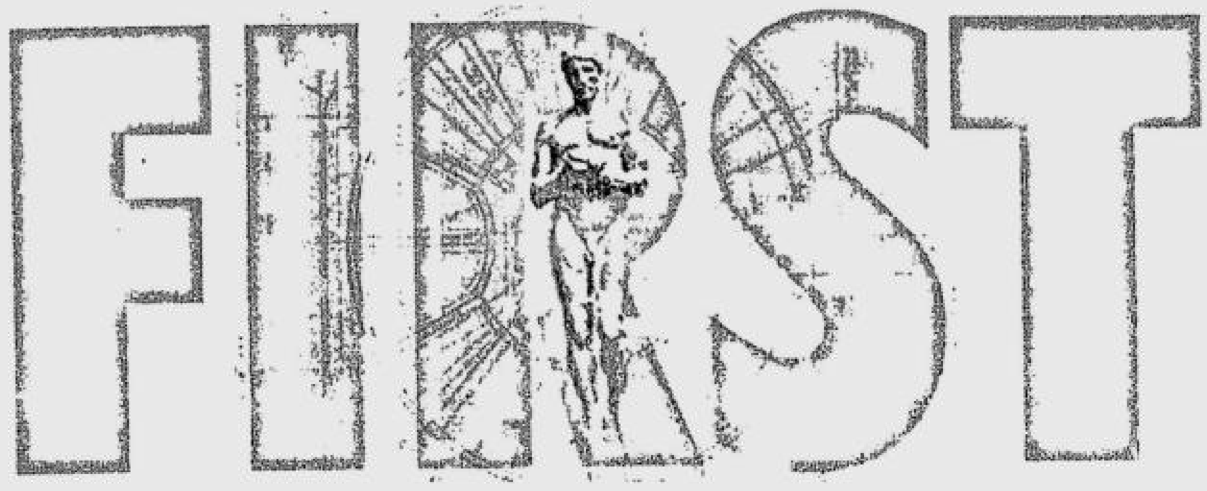
(As of Friday, November 15, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.8	5.9	4.8	5.9	32,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.5	18.5	18.25	18.25	26,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41.5	42.5	41.5	42	225,300
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	26.5	27	26	27	248,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	31	30.5	31	73,500
Philippine National Bank	29	29	29	29	1,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.25	18.25	18.25	18.25	5,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.35	0.4	0.34	0.4	60,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1200	1210	1200	1205	1,720
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	10,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	910	950	910	950	4,310
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	17	17	17	17	400
Diversified Fin. Network	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	20,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	420	420	420	420	50
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	900,000
ISM Communications Corp..	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.016	1,700,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	10,000
Piltel	0.24	0.25	0.235	0.24	2,480,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	257.5	260	255	257.5	183,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	8,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	14	14	13.25	13.5	60,900
Manila Electric Co. B	18	18	16.25	16.5	2,862,000
Petron Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.6	1.62	244,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	200,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	465,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.3	0.3	40,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.3	3.5	3.3	3.5	246,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	14	14	13.75	13.75	167,600
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	14,300
Rfm Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	7,280,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58	58.5	58	58.5	48,600
San Miguel Corp. B	64	64	64	64	97,400
Universal Robina Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	1,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.5	876,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	656,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	80,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	5,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.46	2.46	2.46	2.46	5,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	1,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.195	0.195	0.18	0.19	2,300,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	100,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.16	1.2	1.16	1.2	103,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.5	12.5	428,900
Global Equities Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	100,000
Ionics Inc.	1.68	1.68	1.6	1.6	156,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.34	1.36	1.34	1.36	695,000
Keppel Holdings	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	40,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	90,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.225	0.23	0.225	0.23	230,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	2.75	3	2.75	3	21,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.04	0.041	0.04	0.041	3,800,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	3,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	43,000
Jardine Davies Inc.	18	18	18	18	1,800
SPI Technologies Inc.	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.5	11,600
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	710,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	2,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10	10	10	10	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10	10	10	10	26,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5	5	5	5	5,301,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	50,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.94	0.94	0.91	0.91	860,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	60,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	2,000,000
SM Development Corp..	1.08	1.08	1.04	1.04	313,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.3	584,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	20,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	50,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	73,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	10,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	200,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	689,130	25,258,150.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	41,705,650	130,778,815.00
PRO	9,168,000	31,197,280.00
Mining	170,000	43,400.00
OIL	83,200,000	264,400.00
GRAND TOTALS :	134,932,780	187,542,045.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	412.54	UP 0.08
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,473.82	DOWN 4.34
PRO	461.04	DOWN 2.64
Mining	1,071.63	UNCH 0.00
OIL	1.33	UP 0.03
All Shares Index	632.72	UP 15.82
Composite	1,058.71	DOWN 3.15

NO. OF ADVANCES: 19; NO. OF DECLINES: 24; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 37; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 80; NO. OF TRADES: 1,360



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Bearbull

From page B5

P11 billion it overcharged customers between 1994 and 1998. If the Energy Regulatory Board refuses to grant them a 30 centavo/kilowatt-hour increase, the company will be unable to repay loans due next year and these will be downgraded to junk status. Far more serious is the possibility of the company declaring bankruptcy.

Even if this can be avoided, MERALCO will cut its capital expenditure on repairs and maintenance and we can look forward to ever-increasing brownouts, which will progressively shut down the economy. For the government, which owns a 10-percent stake, this would mean economic and political suicide. The government simply cannot allow this to happen and will have to strike a deal as it did with PNB. It would have to take over the loans and pay off the customers over five years. This would only add one percent to the current budget deficit. In return the government would take control and put in its own people to turn the company around.

Please send your comments to mrbearbull@hotmail.com.

Weakness seen to persist

From page B1

deficit as of October.

The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell by 1.43 percent last week to close at 1,074.12 on Friday, as jitters over the Middle East crisis continued despite the acceptance by Iraq of a United Nations resolution on disarmament.

Summit Securities president Harry Liu said lack of confidence was resulting in low value turnover, although selective blue chips like San Miguel Corp. and Jollibee Foods Corp. were doing well.

"People are a little bit hesitant to commit investments. They are evaluating developments here and abroad," Liu said.

Last Friday, the Supreme Court ordered Meralco to refund overbillings to customers based on a petition by the Energy Regulatory Board in 1998.

Indications of a ballooning budget deficit also triggered concerns that the government might not be able to attain a balanced budget by 2006.

But on a technical basis, Liu said some issues had hit oversold levels, including Meralco and parent firm Benpres Holdings Corp.

"We're going through a narrow consolidation. The market has not gone upward and it has been very selective," Liu said. "Overall, the market is just gyrating sideways."

He said the market would still likely encounter resistance at 1,080 and then at 1,150-1,200.

Seasonally, the market always rebounds sharply after October. However, Liu said this seasonal pattern would apply only during "normal" situations.

Other market players agreed that unlike in previous years, there is a risk of not seeing a strong rebound toward the year-end.

BPI Securities Corp. said in its weekly outlook: "We expect the market to remain weak in light of the unfavorable Supreme Court ruling on Meralco. The fallout from the ruling will affect not only the power distributor but other issues with ties to the company."

"The negative developments, coming on top of continuing concerns over the budget deficit and peso depreciation, cast doubts on the market's ability to close out the year on a positive note in spite of some favorable corporate results last quarter," it explained.

BPI Securities said it expected short-term volatility as investors digest and discount the Meralco news. *Doris C. Dumlao*

Customs . . .

From page B1

Bernardo stressed that the P9.2 billion was "very preliminary" and would be subject to validation by the Bureau of Treasury. He said the number could still change in the coming days.

"I need to collect P10 billion for October to be able to meet my P99.6-billion full-year target," Bernardo said.

What could prop up the Customs performance in October is the depreciation of the peso against the dollar.

During the last three weeks of October, the peso weakened and stayed above the 53 to $1 level against the average foreign exchange rate assumption of the government of between 51.50 and 52 to a dollar.

The improved Customs' performance in October could offset the weak collection of the Bureau of Internal Revenue for the month.

BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno said that as of last week, the bureau sustained a shortfall of P7.8 billion against a target of P38 billion in October.

Parayno said he was expecting between P1 billion and P2 billion in additional revenues in the coming days before the Treasury would finalize the deficit numbers for October.

PNB seeks conversion of PDIC loan to equity

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE National Bank said it would issue P5 billion in long-term bonds convertible into equity if the government rejected a request to convert its remaining P6.1 billion worth of debts into tier-2 capital.

If the government accedes to PNB's request, it would end up with a bigger stake than taipan Lucio Tan, who owns 44.98 of the bank.

PNB president Lorenzo Tan said the bank had asked Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. to put in additional tier-2 capital into the country's sixth largest in terms of assets to further strengthen the bank's capital base.

Part of PNB's rehabilitation that started in May this year was the government's conversion of the bank's P7.8 billion in debts into equity.

The plan to have the remaining P6.1 billion converted into tier-2 capital would further increase the bank's capital by 25 percent from P24 billion as of the third quarter.

PNB's current level of capital allowed it to meet the central bank's requirement of a minimum 10-percent capital adequacy ratio.

"Otherwise, we have to raise P5 billion from the sale of tier-2 notes," Tan said.

PDIC president Norberto Nazareno, who also sits as a director in the bank, said his agency was studying whether Tan's plan is feasible. He said, if ever, it would have to be approved first by the departments of finance and of justice as well as the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The remaining PNB debts are part of the P25 billion in emergency loans—P15 billion from the BSP and P10 billion from PDIC—extended on Oct. 2000 when the bank experienced heavy withdrawals.

An agreement between the government and the Lucio Tan group, which used to control 68 percent of PNB, in May allowed the State, through PDIC, to convert P7.8 billion of debts into equity in PNB, use P10 billion to settle unpaid government obligations to the bank, and restructure P6.1 billion over a 10-year period as part of PNB's rehabilitation.

Nazareno said that since the government had agreed to let PNB pay the P6.1 billion over 10 years, converting the amount to tier-2 capital in the bank should not have any adverse impact.

"It will have a positive impact on PNB because it will increase the bank's capital by 25 percent. This should not have an impact to the national government because it will still be under PDIC and will continue to be PNB's obligations and payable under the same terms," the PDIC chief said.

Nazareno said the debts converted into tier-2 capital in PNB were in the form of non-redeemable, convertible preferred shares held by PDIC on behalf of the government.

The PDIC president said PNB's Tan was looking at another form of tier-2 conversion, one that would either be in the form of long-term bonds or long-term deposits.

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Capitol Hills	[illegible]	Capitol Hills	[illegible]
Eagle Ridge A/C	[illegible]	Celebrity	[illegible]
Fantasy World	[illegible]	Eagle Ridge A & B	[illegible]
Forest Hill "A/B/C"	[illegible]	Manila Golf Corp	[illegible]
Manila Polo	[illegible]	Manila Polo	[illegible]
Manila Southwoods "A/B"	[illegible]	Manila Southwoods "A/B"	[illegible]
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Rockwell	[illegible]	Orchard/Riviera ABC	Please call
Sta Elena "A/B"	[illegible]	Sherwood	[illegible]
Subic Yacht (Indiv.)/Corporate	Please call	Tagaytay Highland Golf	[illegible]
Tagaytay Highland Club	[illegible]	Tagaytay Highland Club	[illegible]
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PSE...

From page B5

are managed by or under the trusteeship of the management; directors, major shareholders or principal owners of the listed issuer, and members of the immediate families of major shareholders, principal owners and management of the listed issuer.

As a general rule, the PSE shall not permit the listing of shares subscribed by related parties unless a rights or public offering is first undertaken, based on the proposal.

The mandatory stock rights offering contained in the existing rule has been scrapped, however, if the transaction is with an independent party. In this case, the PSE will require only a comprehensive disclosure as well as approval from stockholders.

For related party transactions, in addition to the stockholders approval, the issuer must secure a waiver from majority vote representing the outstanding shares held by minority stockholders present in the meeting. Once the waiver is obtained, the subscriber must enter into an agreement with the PSE to lock up the shares for at least 180 days after the listing of the shares subscribed.

Cruz explained that the PSE, however, might waive the rights or public offering requirement in cases such as the following:

- The transaction price for the shares subscribed is set at a premium over the prevailing market price, defined as the weighted average of the closing prices for a period of 30 trading days prior to the transaction, and
- The requirement for a rights or public offer is waived by a majority vote of the minority stockholders present in a special meeting.

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MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	500,000.00	-
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	550,000.00	Please call
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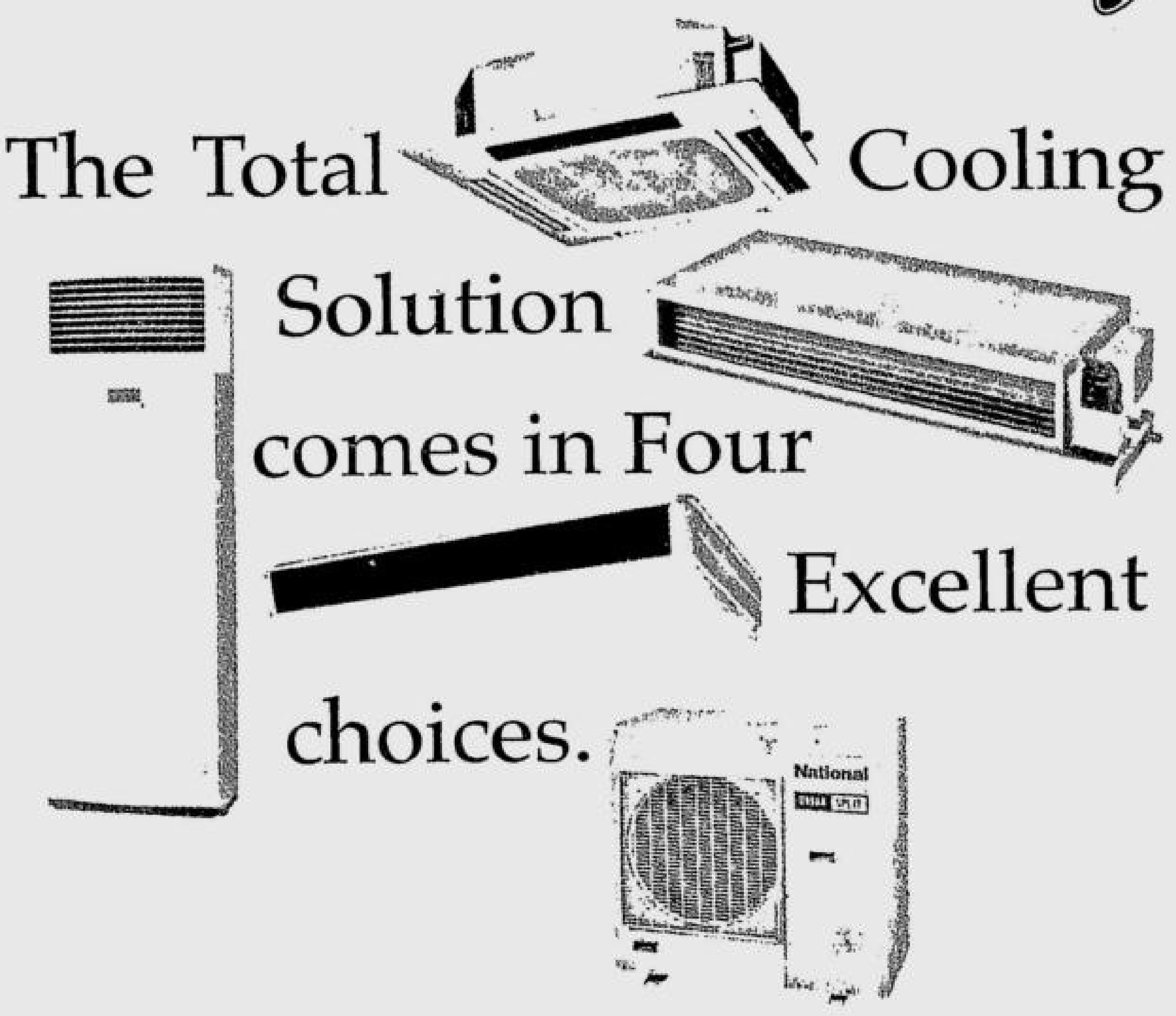

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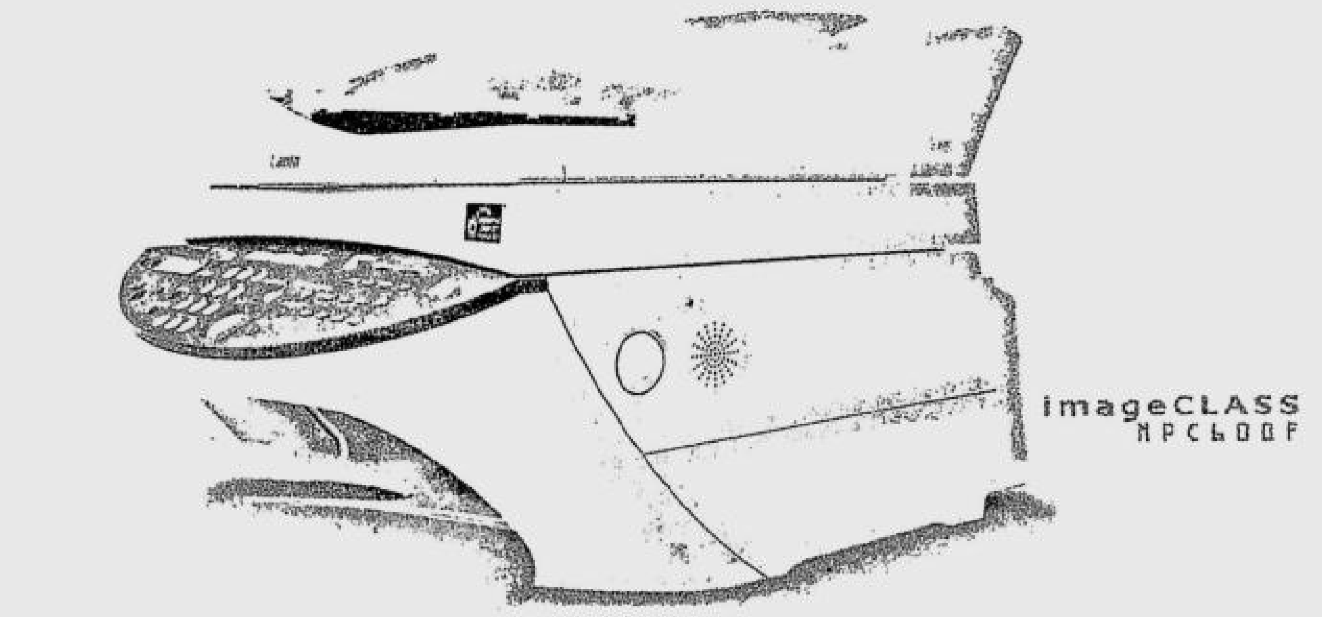

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Carlo Ponzi: One of history's biggest pyramid swindlers

From page B1

Bostonians that he had unlocked the secret to easy wealth.

Ponzi, born in Parma, Italy, in 1882, claimed to have found a way to profit by speculating in international postal reply coupons—a form of prepaid return postage for use in foreign correspondence.

Immigrating to the United States in 1903, Ponzi worked for 14 years as a dishwasher, waiter, store clerk and even as an Italian interpreter.

In 1917, he settled in Boston where he took a job typing and answering foreign mail. It was there, in August 1919, that Ponzi discovered the mechanism that would make him one of history's biggest swindlers.

At the time, Ponzi was considering issuing an export magazine. He had written a letter about the proposed publication to a correspondent in Spain. When Ponzi received his reply, the man included an international postal reply coupon. The idea behind this enclosure was quite simple. Ponzi was to take the coupon to his local post office and exchange it for American postage stamps. He would then use those American stamps to send the magazine to Spain.

Ponzi noticed that the postal coupon had been purchased in Spain for about one cent in American funds. Yet, when he cashed it in, he was able to get six American one-cent stamps.

Clever scheme

Ponzi's mind quickly went into overdrive and devised a clever scheme to capitalize on his idea. His idea was that he could buy $100 worth of stamps in Spain, cash them in for $600 worth of stamps in the United States, then cash in or sell the stamps to a third party.

His first step was to convert his American money into Italian lire (or any other currency where the exchange rate was favorable). Ponzi's foreign agents would then use these funds to purchase international postal coupons in countries with weak economies. The stamp coupons were then exchanged back into a favorable foreign currency and finally back into American funds.

He claimed that his net profit on all these transactions was in excess of 400 percent, but in truth, the red tape of dealing with various postal organizations, coupled with the long delays in transferring currency, ate away at all his imagined profits.

'Great idea'

A failed scheme, however, couldn't keep Ponzi from bragging about his "great idea." Friends and family members easily understood what he was saying, and they wanted in on the investment.

On Dec. 26, 1919, Ponzi filed an application with the city clerk establishing his business as The Security Exchange Co. He promised 50-percent interest in 90 days, yet he claimed to be able to deliver on his promise in just 45 days. This, of course, translated into being able to double the money in just 90 days.

Word spread very quickly about Ponzi's scheme, and within a few short months, the lines outside the door of his School Street office began to grow. Thousands of people purchased Ponzi promissory notes at values ranging from $10 to $50,000. The average investment was estimated to be about $300, a big chunk of pocket change in those days.

New twist

Why would so many people invest in a scheme that didn't work? The real reason was that the early investors did see the great returns on their money. Ponzi used the money from later investors to pay off his earlier obligations. It was a new twist on the age-old pyramid scheme.

With an estimated income of $1,000,000 a week at the height of his scheme, his newly hired staff could not take the money in fast enough. They were literally filling all of the desk drawers, wastepaper baskets and closets in the office with investor's cash.

CIAO!
THE PONZI SCHEME
!!#@!

Branch offices opened and copycat schemes popped up across New England.

By the summer of 1920, Ponzi had taken in millions and started living the life of a very rich man. Ponzi dressed in the finest of suits, had dozens of gold-handled canes, showered his wife in fine jewels and purchased a 20-room Lexington mansion.

Any get rich scheme, however, was certain to attract the attention of the law, and Ponzi was no exception. From the start, federal, state, and local authorities investigated him. Yet, no one could pin Ponzi with a single charge of wrongdoing. Ponzi had managed to pay off all his notes in the promised 45 days and, since everyone was happy to get their earnings, not a single complaint had ever been filed.

Collapsing house

On July 26, 1920, Ponzi's house of cards began to collapse. The Boston Post headlined a story on the front page questioning the legitimacy of Ponzi's scheme. Later that day, the district somehow convinced to suspend taking in new investments until an auditor examined his books.

Within hours, crowds of people lined up outside Ponzi's door demanding that they get their investment back. Ponzi obliged and assured the public that his organization was financially stable and that he could meet all obligations. He returned the money to those that requested it. By the end of the first day, he had settled nearly a thousand claims with the panicked crowd.

By continuing to meet all of his obligations, the angry masses began to dwindle and public support swelled. Crowds followed Ponzi's every move. He was urged by many to enter politics and was hailed as a hero.

And Ponzi continued to dream. He had planned to establish a new type of bank where the profits would be split equally between the shareholders and the depositors. He also planned to reopen his company under a new name, the Charles Ponzi Co., whose main purpose was to invest in major industries around the world.

The public continued to support him until Aug. 10, 1920, when the auditors, banks and newspapers declared that Ponzi was definitely bankrupt. Two days later, Ponzi confessed that he had a criminal record, which just worsened his situation. In 1908, he served 20 months in a Canadian prison on forgery charges related to a similar high-interest scheme that he had participated in there. This was followed in 1910 by an additional two-year sentence in Atlanta, Georgia for smuggling five Italians over the Canadian border into the United States.

Downfall

On Aug. 13, Ponzi was finally arrested by federal authorities and released on a $25,000 bond. Just moments later he was rearrested by Massachusetts authorities and re-released on an additional $25,000 bond.

The whole thing turned into one gigantic mess. There were federal and state civil and criminal trials, bankruptcy hearings, suits against Ponzi, suits filed by Ponzi, and the ultimate closing of five different banks.

An estimated 40,000 people had entrusted an estimated $15 million (about $140 million in US funds today) in Ponzi's scheme. A final audit of his books concluded that he had taken in enough funds to buy approximately 180 million postal coupons, of which they could only actually confirm the purchase of two.

Ponzi's only legitimate source of income was $45 that he received as a dividend of five shares of telephone stock. His total assets came to $.59 million, which did not come close to paying off his outstanding debts.

Ponzi was sentenced to five years in federal prison for using the mails to defraud people. After three and one-half years in prison, Ponzi was sentenced to seven to nine more years by Massachusetts's authorities.

He was released on a $14,000 bond pending an appeal and disappeared about a month later.

Charles Borelli

He turned up a short time later in Florida. Under the assumed name of Charles Borelli, Ponzi was involved in yet another pyramid scheme. He was purchasing land at $16 an acre, subdividing it into 23 lots and selling each lot off at $10 a piece. He promised all investors that their initial $10 investment would translate into $5,300,000 in just two years. Much of the land, however, was underwater and absolutely worthless.

Ponzi was indicted for fraud and sentenced to one year in a Florida prison. Once again, he jumped bail on June 3, 1926 and ran off to Texas. He hopped a freighter headed for Italy but was captured on June 28 in a New Orleans port.

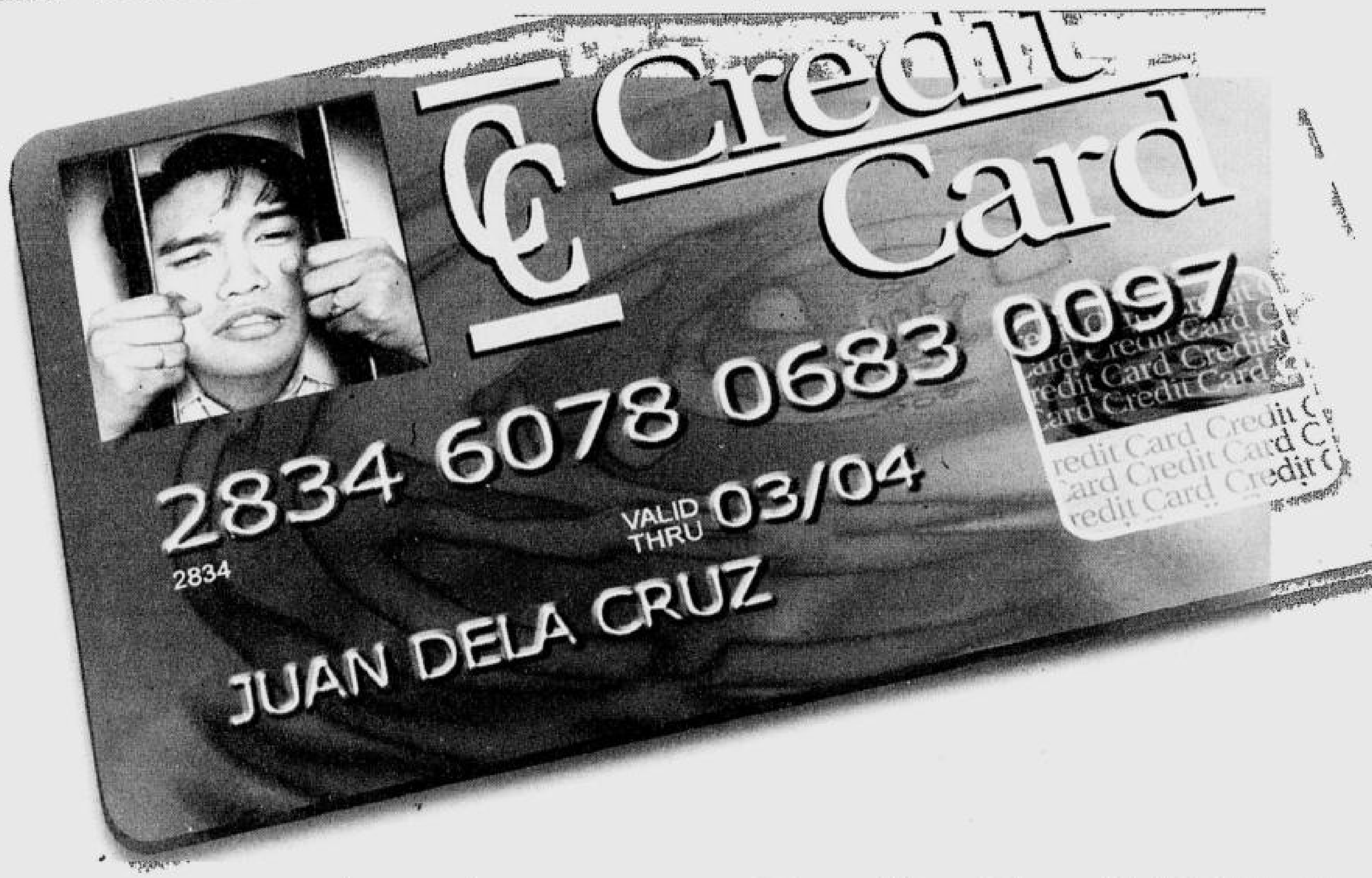
On June 30, he sent a telegram to US President Calvin Coolidge asking to be deported. Ponzi's request was denied and he was sent back to Boston to complete his jail term. After seven years, Ponzi was released on good behavior and deported to Italy on Oct. 7, 1934. Even after all of his swindling, he still had many fans that were there to give him a rousing sendoff.

In Rome

Back in Rome, Ponzi became an English translator. Mussolini then offered him a position with Italy's new airline, and he served as the Rio de Janeiro branch manager from 1939 to 1942. Ponzi discovered that several airline officials were using the carrier to smuggle currency, and Ponzi wanted a cut. When they refused to include him, he tipped off the Brazilian government. The Second World War brought about the airline's failure, and Ponzi soon found himself unemployed.

Once again, he wandered from job to job. He tried running a Rio lodge, but that failed. He then alternated between earning a pittance providing English lessons and drawing from the Brazilian unemployment fund.

Ponzi died in January 1949 in the charity ward of a Rio de Janeiro hospital. Somehow, the man who had gone from poverty to multi-millionaire and right back to poverty in a matter of six months had managed to save up $75 to cover the costs of his burial.



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PAL says no dent from Bali, Mindanao bombings

By Abigail L. Ho

MACTAN, Cebu—Philippines Airlines Inc. has said last month's bombings of two popular tourist destinations in Bali, Indonesia, and similar attacks in Mindanao have hardly dented its operations.

The country's No. 1 airline conceded, however, that Tokyo's travel advisory has contributed to a decline in passenger traffic between the Philippines and Japan.

In a news briefing during the 46th Assembly of Presidents of the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines on Thursday, PAL president and chief operating officer Avelino Zapanta said PAL's share of the Japanese market shrank because of the advisory.

"The Japanese are very law-abiding people, so when their government tells them not to go to a certain country, they obey. This has resulted in a downturn in traffic," he said.

Passenger traffic from Japan accounts for about 20 percent of PAL's total international revenues.

The carrier was forced to indefinitely suspend its thrice-a-week Cebu-Osaka flights late last year after the Japanese government advised its citizens against traveling to the Philippines.

Tokyo issued the advisory after an Abu Sayyaf band abducted tourists from the upscale Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan.

Since the advisory came out, the number of tourists coming from Japan has been steadily dropping, Zapanta said.

With much prodding from Manila, however, the Japanese government in late August softened its stance on traveling to the Philippines by instructing its citizens to just "exercise caution" in visiting tourist destinations in Luzon and the Visayas and to "evaluate carefully before deciding to travel" to Mindanao.

The Zamboanga bombings a couple of months back, however, forced the Japanese government to reiterate its previous advisory, particularly with regard to Mindanao.

AAPA director general Richard Stirland said the Bali bombing had cast a shadow of uncertainty over Southeast Asia's tourism industry.

It is a "perception problem," he said, stressing that Asia-Pacific traffic and revenues continue to be robust.

Zapanta said PAL was still on track to meeting and even exceeding its 2002 net income target of P1 billion.

"We worked hard to improve the Japan traffic, but the Bali incident had an immediate impact. We'll try to build this up again next year," he said.

HSBC Corp. chief executive Paul Lawrence (left) is shown here with Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho after signing an underwriting agreement for the planned sale of P10 billion worth of notes, in tranches of three- and five-year maturities. An important feature of the landmark deal is a documentary framework and template for transacting peso-denominated loans, developed by HSBC, to be transferred to and used by the government to issue similar instruments in the future directly to accredited dealers without requiring the services of an underwriter.

Qatar seen supplying RP with natural gas

ENERGY Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. has said the government of Qatar is keen on supplying the country with liquefied natural gas, a raw material for making plastics products.

Perez visited Qatar last week.

"(Qatar) is monitoring the development of the natural gas industry in our country," he said. "There is a lot of potential in increasing trade with them on LNG and petrochemicals."

Qatar is exploiting natural gas reserves totaling 990 trillion cubic feet.

The Philippines' own Malampaya gas reserve is estimated at between 2.5 trillion and 3.5 trillion cubic feet.

Perez also said part of his mission in Qatar was to see whether the petroleum-rich nation could also be tapped as an added source of crude.

In a related matter, he said the government of Iran had agreed to sell more crude to the country.

"Iran is willing to sell more in case we want more," Perez said. "(For our part), we have asked the National Iranian Oil Co. to look at the possibility of putting up an oil facility in Nonoc Island."

He said the island in Surigao appealed to the Iranians because of the Muslim population in the area.

Perez said an oil depot in Nonoc Island could hold refined products for distribution within the country and throughout Southeast Asia.

Earlier this month, Perez announced that Russian oil firms have expressed interest in supplying crude and exploring for oil and gas in the country. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

Cebu Pacific taps China tourist mart

ONE of the country's biggest tourism service providers has chartered Cebu Pacific's aircraft for a number of special flights to bring in tourists from China.

Cebu Pacific said DOT Travel Service Philippines Inc. has chartered its DC9s to provide touring services in China's Guangzhou district, specifically in Canton, and in Hong Kong and Subic Bay from Nov. 15 to February next year.

DOT Travel's Manila-Canton-Subic-Manila services began Friday, while its Manila-Subic-Hong Kong-Manila services began yesterday.

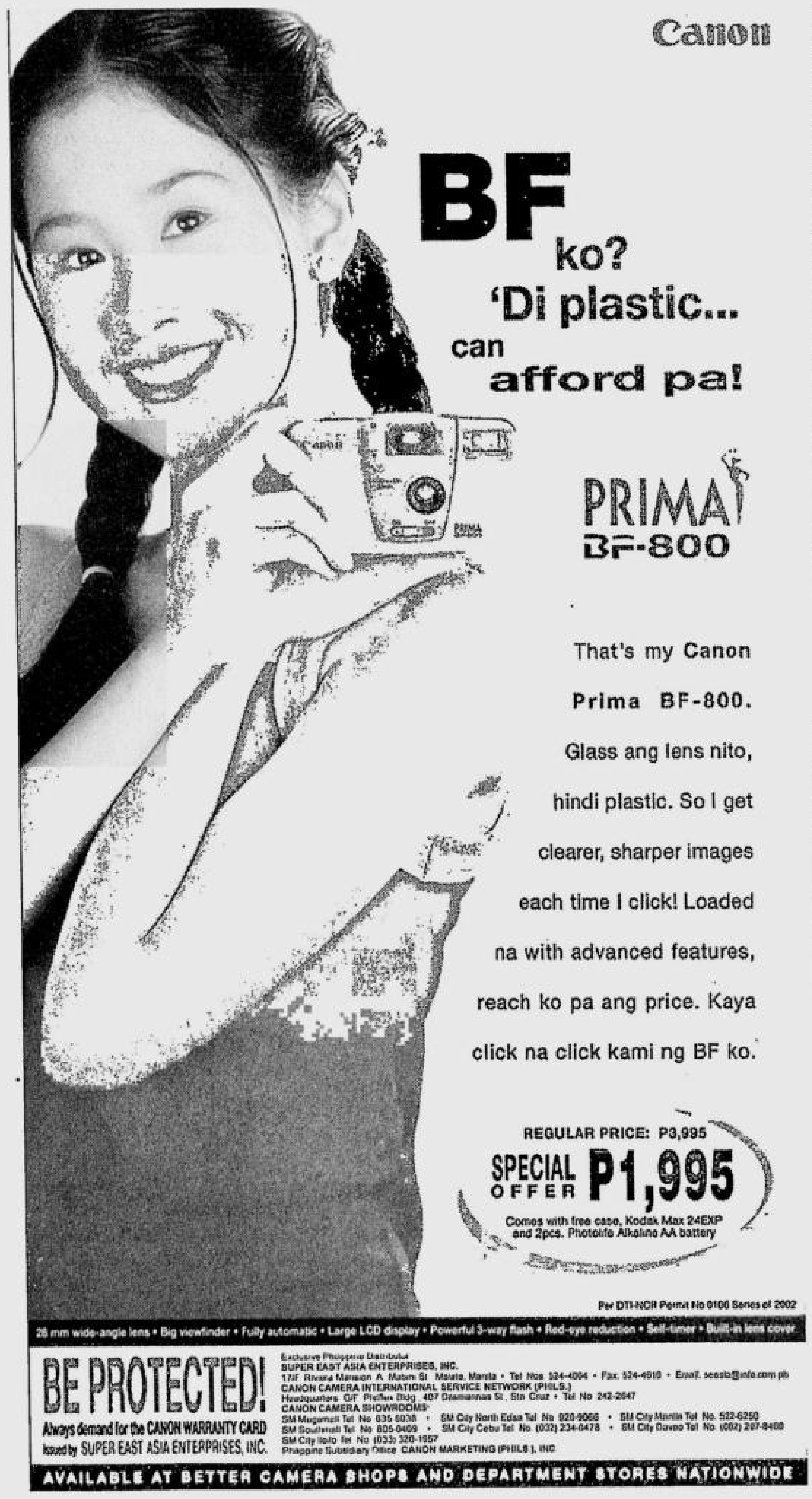
DOT Travel has been an active "land operator" in the Chinese mainland and in Hong Kong, having already gone into charter services with the country's major carriers.

In chartering, DOT Travel is basically "buying" the whole plane and will sell the seats to clients.

Cebu Pacific currently has 12 DC-9s.

The DC-9 was designed specifically to operate from short runways and on short- to medium-range routes so that the speed, comfort and reliability of jet transportation could be extended to hundreds of communities previously served only by propeller-driven airliners.

Passenger cabins of the DC-9s are designed for optimum passenger comfort and convenience. Economy class seating is five across—an arrangement consistently preferred in passenger surveys to the six-across seating in other single-aisle jetliners. A "wide look" interior introduced in 1973 provides a greater feeling of spaciousness than in earlier models and offers enclosed overhead racks for carry-on bags.



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2003 Panasonic Scholarship
Philippine Colleges and Universities

In 1967, the Joint Venture between Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. of Japan and Matsushita Electric Philippines Corporation or MEPCO (then Precision Electronics Corporation) was formalized. Since then, MEPCO has endeavored to fulfill its mission of contributing to the progress and development of the Philippines through its business activities.

In celebration of MEPCO's 35th year of solid commitment to this mission, the company launched its latest scholarship program – the Local Panasonic College Scholarship Program – which provides promising students from all over the country the opportunity to complete a degree in excellent state universities and colleges, and become a dynamic asset in the community.

A. Contents of Panasonic Scholarship
1. School Fees (tuition, matriculation, laboratory)
2. Monthly Allowance
3. Achievement Allowance for scholars who demonstrate exemplary performance

B. Qualifications
1. Must be a citizen of the Philippines
2. Must be 20 years of age or less before June 2003
3. Must be a graduate or graduating high school student
4. Must have high school general average of at least 85% (top 10% of graduating class)
5. Must have annual family income of P150,000 or less
6. Must be qualified to enroll in any of the specified courses in selected state universities or colleges by June 2003 (list may be found in the application form)

C. Documentary Requirements
1. Two pieces of 2"x2" photo, white background
2. Civil registrar certified photocopy of birth certificate
3. Residence Certificate for year 2002
4. Police Clearance not older than three months
5. Official Transcript of Records from 1st year to 4th Year (until October 2002 if graduating in 2003).
6. Certification on school letterhead signed by school principal or head with information of the following:
   a. Percentile inclusion (top 5%, top 10%, etc.)
   b. Certification of candidacy for any honors or awards given by the school, if any
   c. Good moral character
7. BIR Income Tax Return or Tax Exemption of parents for the years 2000 and 2001.
8. Photocopy of electricity bills for the past 3months, if any
9. Photocopy of telephone bills for the past 3 months, if any
10. Completed application form. Application forms may be downloaded from www.mepco.panasonic.com.ph or obtained from any plant or branch office of MEPCO nationwide. **Forms may be photocopied.**

All application forms with complete documentary requirements should be enclosed and sealed in a short brown envelope and must be received by any MEPCO office not later than **December 31, 2002.**

Address applications or inquiries to:
The Scholarship Coordinator
Panasonic Scholarship Office
Matsushita Electric Philippines Corporation
Ortigas Avenue Extension, Taytay, Rizal 1920
Direct Line: (02) 284-2036
Trunkline: (02) 635-2260 local 2226
Facsimile: (02) 635-2260 local 2522
Email: panascho@mepco.panasonic.com.ph

www.mepco.panasonic.com.ph

National/Panasonic
Matsushita Electric Philippines Corporation

OTHER MEPCO OFFICES: SANTA ROSA PLANT 102 Laguna Boulevard, Laguna Technopark, Santa Rosa, Laguna Tel: (02) 520-8600 to 08 • MAKATI OFFICE National Panasonic Sales Philippines (System Sales) 3/F Montivar Bldg., 34 Jupiter cor Planet Sts., Bel-Air II, Makati City Tel: (02) 899-4595 to 98 • MANDALUYONG OFFICE National Panasonic Service Center 545 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City Tel: (02) 725-3534/3630/3540/3722/3960 • DAU OFFICE NPSP Bldg., MacArthur Highway, Dau, Mabalacat, Pampanga Tel: (045) 892-4695 to 97 • PANGASINAN OFFICE Siapno Compound, MacArthur Highway, San Miguel, Calasiao, Pangasinan Tel: (075) 517-5220/522-0162 • NUEVA ECIJA OFFICE 260 Maharlika Highway, Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija Tel: (044) 311-0064/48/49 • SAN PABLO OFFICE Mary Grace Bldg., Colago Avenue cor Quezon Sts., San Pablo City Tel: (049) 562-2737/0313 • NAGA OFFICE BenMar Bldg. II Door A Concepcion Grande St., Naga City Tel: (054) 472-3586 / 473-0497 • BACOLOD OFFICE Burgos Ext. Reclamation Area (Near Pavilion Restaurant), Bacolod City Tel: (034) 435-5688/0638 • ILOILO OFFICE De Leon Bldg. Mabini-Delgado, Iloilo City Tel: (033) 335-0487/337-2946 • CEBU OFFICE National Panasonic Bldg., C.D. Seno St., Tipolo, Mandaue City Tel: (032) 346-4046/345-3886 • DAVAO OFFICE National Panasonic Building, J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City Tel: (082) 221-1860/1861 • CAGAYAN DE ORO OFFICE Door 1&2 FCTC Bldg., Bulua, Cagayan de Oro City Tel: (088) 856-2321/22

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The Panasonic Scholarship Program was established in 1998 in commemoration of MEI's 80th anniversary to provide scholarship opportunity to privately-financed students from Asian countries to pursue master's course in Japan to contribute to the development of their countries in the 21st century and to promote the mutual friendship between their home countries and Japan.

Applications from the Philippines have been accepted since 2000. To date, ten Filipino scholars have been sent to Japan. Three more are leaving in April 2003.

For batch 2004, applications will be accepted in April 2003. Visit us at www. mepco.panasonic.com.ph to know more on how YOU can be the next Filipino student to receive the 2004 Panasonic Scholarship grant for Master's Course in Japan!

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CONFERENCE PROGRAM & SCHEDULE

DAY ONE, November 20

E-Government Track
9:00am-12:00nn, *Moderator: Albert dela Cruz*

- State of E-Commerce Compliance by Philippine Government Agencies - by Undersecretary Gregory Domingo, Dept. of Trade & Industry
- E-Government Budget Allotment - by Undersecretary Mario Relampagos, Dept. of Budget & Management
- E-Banking and E-Payments by Dir. Ricardo San Juan, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
- E-Commerce Project Standards by Julie Ana Sudario, Director, National Computer Center
- RP-Web Update by Secretary Leandro Mendoza, Dept. of Transportation & Communication
- Use of VAS in E-Government by Armi Jane R. Borje, Commissioner, National Telecommunications Commission
- Audit Initiatives and Issues by Arcadio Cuenco, Director, Commission on Audit

Wireless Track
1:30-5:00pm, *Moderator: Ruel S. Kapunan*

- The State of Wireless Technology - MMS, The Next Big Thing in Wireless by Nicky Santiago, Vice President, Globe Telecom Inc.
- Surviving the Advertising Slump Through Wireless Technologies by Manuel P. Quiogue, President, GMA Marketing & Production Inc.
- Location-Based Services & Telematics by Oscar de Leon Jr., Executive Vice President, Findme.com
- Mobile Commerce: How Wireless Technology Makes Business

DAY TWO, November 21

E-Commerce Track
9:00am-12:00nn, *Moderator: Guillermo M. Luz*

- Philippine Internet Users Survey and the Potential of E-Commerce by Elena van Tooren, Director, AC Nielsen
- Electronic Cash Management:Creating Value for Your Business in the Digital Age by Marita Socorro Gayares, Vice-President, Bank of the Philippine Islands
- Interactive Online Banking by Johan Sekora, Manager, HSBC
- Best Practices in Doing E-Commerce by Ramon Garcia, President, e-2-door.com, TG Limcaoco, President, MyAyala.com and Edna Belleza, Vice President, Sales & Linkages, Inq7.net

Internet & Web Technology Track
1:30-5:00pm, *Moderator: Jack Madrid*

- Best Practices in E-Commerce Project Management by David Paraiso Jr., Director, US-based Integrated Technologies Inc.
- Implementing Logistics: A Case Study by Janet Ong, Managing Director, SFS-LBC Dev. Corp.
- Web Technology and Services - Microsoft.NET by Jojo Ayson, Microsoft Philippines
- Hewlett Packard Presentation

DAY THREE, November 22

Outsourcing Track
9:00am-12:00nn, *Moderator: Lito Reyes*

- The Philippine Software Development Outsourcing Industry: A Self-Assessment - by Marife Zamora, President, Headstrong
- 2003 Global Forecast for IT Services Outsourcing Market by Cesar Tolentino, Consultant, Optel Ltd.
- Global Market Oportunities in Outsources Software Development Business - by Ken Saito, Commercial Attache, Embassy of Japan, Henry Schumacher, Executive Vice-President, ECCP, and David Paraiso Jr., US-based Integrated Technologies Inc.

Policies Track
1:30-4:00pm, *Moderator: Atty. JJ Disini*

- Convergence Bill
- Optical Media Bill
- Terrorism Bill
- Cyber Crime Bill

by Rep. Imee Marcos, Albert dela Cruz, Atty. Andrew Ong and Atty. Rodolfo Salalima

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PHILIPPINE JAYCEE SENATE TURNOVER
Quezon City Mayor and past JCI World president Feliciano "Sonny" R. Belmonte Jr. (center) presides over the induction of 2003 Philippine Jaycee Senate national president Sergio "Sergie" O. Valencia (left) as incumbent Philippine Jaycee Senate National president as Leoncio "Nonoy" P. Villa-Abrille looks on.

Gov't defends decision favoring petrochem sector

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry said local plastic makers should not begrudge the government for its decision to protect the petrochemical industry because they themselves benefited from high tariff walls under previous administrations.

Industry Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino said the local plastic makers should not forget that they had grown in the past 40 years largely because the government has kept out competing products through high tariffs.

Aquino said each industry has had its period of government protection. "The plastic makers had theirs and now it is the time to protect petrochemical firms."

Aquino was reacting to the plastic makers' main complaint that the government chose to protect the petrochemical industry, which has been in operation for less than five years, instead of an industry that has been in existence for over four decades.

The Philippine Plastic Industry Association has petitioned the government to lower polymer duties from 15 percent to 5 percent in order to correct a long-standing distortion wherein finished products have lower duties (5 percent) than their inputs (resins).

Aquino said the DTI has resolved to keep the 15-percent duty on polymers to protect local petrochemical manufacturers from cheap imports from Singapore and Thailand while the government finalizes plans for the construction of a naphtha cracker plant, the key to the industry's full integration and competitiveness.

To appease critics of the agency's plan to maintain tariff protection on semi-processed petrochemical products, Aquino said the DTI was planning to reduce duties on select finished plastic products not manufactured locally or produced here but in insufficient quantity.

This is notable considering that the government has decided to defer all tariff cuts as a policy to prevent further revenue erosion and rein in the budget deficit. The move should benefit manufacturers that use plastic extensively in their operations such as appliances, consumer goods and packaging.

Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II had earlier informed Asean members of the country's plan to exempt petrochemicals from the scheduled reduction of duties to no more than 5 percent under the Asean Free Trade Area next year.

The Association of Petrochemical Manufacturers of the Philippines has a pending petition with the Tariff Commission to raise duties on polymers from 15 percent to 30 percent up to 2010.

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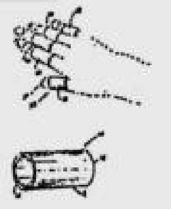
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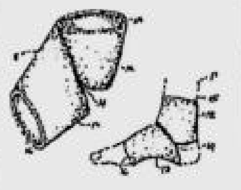
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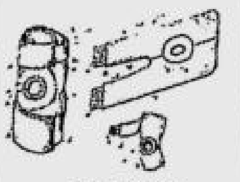
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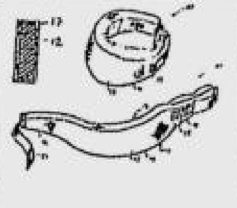
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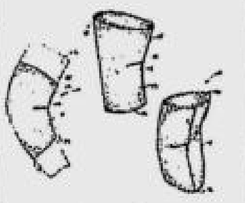
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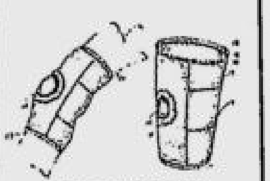
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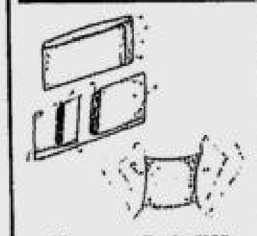
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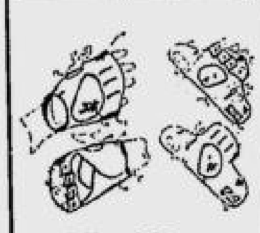
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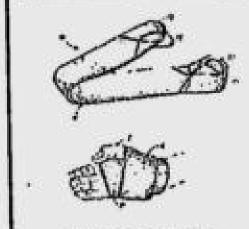
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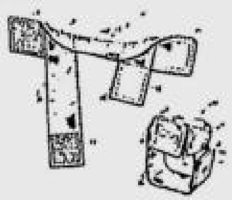
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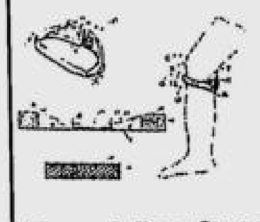
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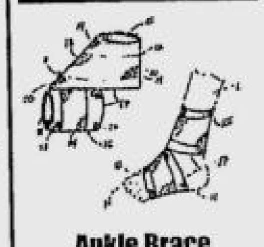
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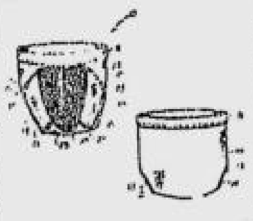
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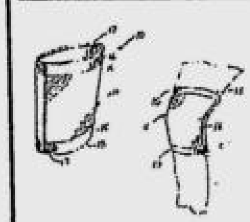
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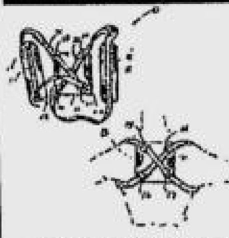
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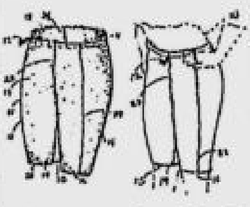
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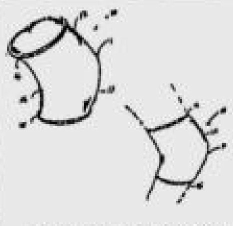
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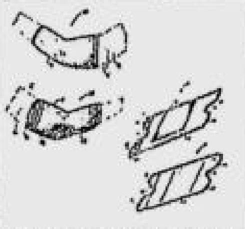
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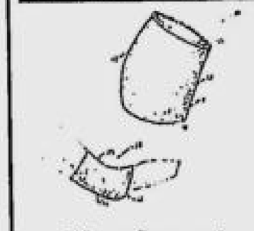
Elbow Support

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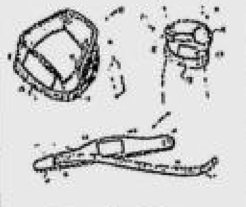
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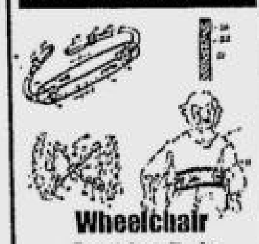
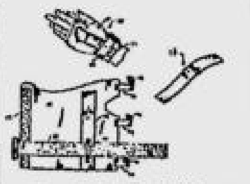

Wheelchair Cushion Belt

Letters Patent No. 2-1998-00386 Issued Mar. 01, 2001

Maternity Belt

Letters Patent No. 2-1998-00389 Issued Mar. 01, 2001

Hand Immobilizer Splint

Letters Patent No. 2-1998-00391 Issued Mar. 01, 2001

Lifter's Belt

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Counsel for **MANLY SPORTSWEAR MFG., INC.**
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Fax No. (632) 404-0929; email: cnlex@info.com.ph

Settlement of Glasgow claims to start on Nov. 26

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has advised all investors of Glasgow Credit and Collection Services Inc. that they can start recovering 79.37 percent of their investments less interests paid on Nov. 26.

The commission said claimants should appear in person, bringing with them at least two identification papers bearing their photographs and signatures. One of these documents should be government-issued, it said.

Also, claimants should bring original checks and, if any, contracts bearing the SEC-received stamp, including a set of photocopied documents, it added.

Banks will charge P100 to cover the cost of the manager's checks and other incidental expenses, the SEC said.

Based on disclosed records, the total amount unfrozen by the Anti-Money Laundering Council for the purpose of paying investors stands at P696.29 million against some P939.28 million being claimed by investors.

Each investor will receive 79.37 percent of his or her outstanding claim, less payment previously received.

For investors whose names appear in both the SEC and Glasgow lists, payment by manager's check shall take place from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on the following dates and corresponding venues:

- With family names beginning with A, C, D, F, L, M, Q, U, at the 8th floor of RCBC Plaza in Makati, Nov. 26. The exact schedule will be posted at the fifth floor of the SEC building;
- With family names starting with G (Nov. 26 and 27), P (Nov. 28 and 29), Y (Nov. 26 to 29), at Metro Express Delivery Services Inc., 5th floor Prudential Bank building in Makati;
- B (Nov. 26), R (Nov. 27), S (Nov. 28), T and Z (Nov. 29), at the Fiesta Carnival Cinema in Cubao, Quezon City;
- E, H, I, H, K, N, O and V at Aqua St. Unit 7, 3rd Floor, Star-Mall, Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong. Again, due to the large number of claimants, the exact schedule shall also be posted a the fifth floor of the SEC building; and,
- W at Allied Bank's Shaw Boulevard branch

For investors who did not submit documents to the SEC but whose names appeared in the Glasgow list, payment would start after completion of distribution to investors with family names A, C, D, F, L, M, Q and U.

FORT Bonifacio Development Corp. and the Philippine Stock Exchange Inc. have signed a deal to relocate the bourse's headquarters and trading floors at the Fort Bonifacio Global City. Signing the deal are (seated from left): Bases Conversion Development Authority president Rufo Colayco, FBDC chair Manuel Pangilinan, PSE chair Ma. Vivien Yuchengco and PSE President Ernest Leung. Witnesses are (standing from left): former PSE building committee chair Ismael Cruz, former PSE chair Felipe Yap, PSE director Alicia Arroyo and FBDC vice president for finance Joey Lim.

MESSAGES

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

I commend the **Philippine Neurological Association** for spearheading this *24th Annual Convention*, which seeks to sharpen the skills of our people in the medical field and improve the quality of healthcare in the country. This event reminds all of you of the important role that you play in shaping our nation's future. It bolsters our efforts to make the Philippine healthcare system more effective and responsive to the demands of the 21st century.

Quality of health is a crucial factor in attaining sustainable development and winning the war against poverty. I encourage doctors and other experts in the medical field to work hand in hand to enable our people to live healthy and productive lives. Our partnership is symbolic of our country's healing, rebuilding and development process.

I wish for the full success of this event. I am confident it will result in the adoption of innovative medical techniques to promote and achieve a world-class Philippine healthcare system.

MABUHAY!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

I convey my warmest greetings to the officers and members of the **Philippine Neurological Association** (PNA) on the occasion of your 24th Annual Convention with this year's theme, "Brain and Heart, The Vital Link."

We have succeeded in gaining a significant progress in our health profile during the last 50 years, and you have proven to be an essential element not only to the implementation of the various health programs and projects of the Department of Health, but also in disseminating information and innovations in the field of neurology.

I urge you to sustain forums that will offer a meaningful exchange of ideas, knowledge and technology among members of the medical profession. With the ever-evolving field of medicine, may you continue to provide the necessary updates needed to equip our healthcare providers to serve effectively and efficiently our countrymen.

As the government bolsters its efforts to provide quality healthcare in response to the health needs of our countrymen, it is inherent that we must join efforts to make our healthcare system be more accessible and affordable to the marginalized sectors of the society.

Let this occasion renew our zeal to serve our fellowmen and in making quality healthcare within the reach of common Filipinos.

Mabuhay po kayong lahat!

MANUEL M. DAYRIT, MD., Msc.
Secretary of Health

Greetings! This year's theme "Brain and Heart the Vital Link" is very relevant and timely as we prepare for the expected epidemic of cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases. Our mission of promoting the highest standard in neurological care can be achieved if we have a clear understanding of diseases that are prevalent in our practice-diseases of brain related to the heart being high in the list. We must always remind ourselves that we practice in a highly competitive and technologically advanced global environment and keeping abreast to what is new and relevant is crucial. With our well selected renowned local and foreign speakers, I am sure our delegates will be provided with new and fresh perspectives of the relationship between these two vital organs.

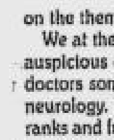
The working committee has prepared a convention that is both neurologically stimulating and socially refreshing. San Fernando, La Union has oeen eagerly awaiting to welcome us and show us their hospitality. I wish you all a fruitful convention!

Sincerely yours:

ARTEMIO A. ROXAS JR., MD, FPNA
President
Philippine Neurological Association

It is with utmost honor and pleasure that I welcome the speakers, delegates and guests to the 24th Annual Convention of the Philippine Neurological Association. This affair is a first in many ways. Among other reasons, it is the first national medical convention to be held in La Union. It is also the first convention in the country with Neurocardiology as the main theme. I am sure the medical practitioners in the region and from across the country will benefit from the interesting topics featured in the main convention as well as in the PreConvention Postgraduate Course. I enjoin all to explore La Union and the vital links between the brain and heart.

Raymond Espinosa
RAYMOND L. ESPINOSA, MD FPNA
Overall Convention Chair



On behalf of the Officers and the Board of Governors of the Philippine Medical Association, we heartily express best wishes to the officers and members of the Philippine Neurological Association on the occasion of its 24th Annual Convention on the theme. *"The Brain and Heart, the Vital Link."*

We at the PMA are most glad to join you in the observance of this auspicious occasion. You deserve commendation for providing our doctors some stimulating sessions on cutting edge topics in clinical neurology. We applaud your commitment in inviting from our own ranks and from abroad neurologists of great expertise and renown to share knowledge in the scientific sessions, and to make this convention truly first rate. You really do us proud for remaining a steady anchor to your members in their quest for excellence and professional growth. For sure, this convention will be another milestone in the history of the PNA.

May we enjoin you to continue bringing effective and affordable healthcare to our people as reflected in the PMA annual convention theme, *"PMA 100 Years - Continuing the Challenge for a Healthy Nation"*. At the same time, please join us on September 15, 2003, in the celebration of the PMA 100th Anniversary on the theme. *"100 Years of the PMA in Nation Building - Service to the People for a Healthy Philippines."*

Congratulations. Mabuhay ang Philippine Neurological Association.

GIL C. FERNANDEZ, M.D.
President

PHILIPPINE NEUROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

24th Annual Convention

November 20-23, 2002
Oasis Hotel, San Fernando, La Union
Theme: BRAIN AND HEART, THE VITAL LINK

November 20, 2002
PEARLS IN NEUROLOGY
POSTGRADUATE COURSE

0900 – 0930 Registration
0930 – 1000 Opening Ceremonies

ADULT NEUROLOGY

1000 – 1030 IS IT SEIZURE OR SYNCOPE?
Josephine C. Gutierrez, MD, FPNA
1030 –1100 MY HANDS ARE TREMBLING
Gerardo Carmelo B. Salazar, MD, FPNA
1100 – 1130 HEADACHES TO WORRY ABOUT
Philip Manuel M. Oliva, MD, FPNA
1130 – 1200 UNDERSTANDING AND TREATING PERIODIC PARALYSIS
Ludwig F. Damian, MD, FPNA
1200 – 1400 THERAPHARMA LUNCH SYMPOSIUM
Gregorio B. Patacsil, MD

CHILD NEUROLOGY

1400 – 1445 ACUTE HEAD INJURIES IN CHILDREN
Gerardo D. Legaspi, MD, FAFN
1445 – 1530 PEARLS AND PITFALLS IN THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF PEDIATRIC CNS INFECTIONS
Teresita N. Rabanal, MD, FPNA
1530 – 1545 COFFEE BREAK
1545 – 1630 STATUS EPILEPTICUS IN CHILDREN
Benilda C. Sanchez, MD
1630 – 1745 ACUTE PARALYSIS IN CHILDREN
Aida M. Salonga, MD, FPNA
1715 – 1745 CLOSING CEREMONIES
Closing Remarks Wilhelmina Arzadon, MD
President, La Union Medical Society
1900 PHILIPPINE LEAGUE AGAINST EPILEPSY (PLAE) DINNER SYMPOSIUM
NOVARTIS

November 21, 2002
Main Convention
Brain and Heart: The Vital Link

0800 – 0830 Registration
0830 – 0900 Opening of Exhibits
0900 – 1000 Opening Ceremonies

Keynote Address Bernardo Jorge L. Conde, MD, FPNA
PNA Past President, 1991

1000 – 1030 NEUROLOGICAL COMPLICATIONS OF MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION
Abdias V. Aquino, MD, FPCP, FPNA
1030 – 1100 ANTI-EPILEPTIC DRUGS AND CARDIAC ARRHYTHMIAS
Anthony B. King, MD, FPCP
1100 – 1200 USE OF ANTI-EPILEPTIC DRUGS IN THE ELDERLY
Ilo E. Leppik, MD
1200 PFIZER LUNCH SYMPOSIUM:
New Developments in Neuropathic Pain Management
Roy Gary Beran, MD
1400 – 1445 PNA-UCB POSTER COMPETITION (Sessions I and II)
Session Chair: Michelli Mae G. Yusay, MD, FPNA
Judges: Fe Delos Reyes, MD, FPNA (Chair)
Corazon Mercado, MD, FPNA
Annette De Guzman-Bautista, MD, FPNA
1445 – 1530 THE NEUROLOGIC COMPLICATIONS OF INFECTIVE ENDOCARDITIS
Jaime C. Montoya, MD, FPCP
1530 – 1630 PNA-NATRAPHARM CASE REPORT COMPETITION
Session Chair: Florenz Eubil Bilocura, MD, FPNA
Judges: Orlino Pacioles, MD, FPNA (Chair)
Lina Renales, MD, FPNA
Gerardo Carmelo B. Salazar, MD, FPNA
1630 – 1730 1st Professor Gilberto L. Gamez Memorial Lecture
Extended Application of Transcranial Doppler in Subarachnoid Hemorrhage And the Use of Thrombolytics
Jose C. Navarro, MD, FPNA
1730 – 1800 AVENTIS SYMPOSIUM
Updates on the Use of Low Molecular Weight Heparin
Fatima R. Collado, MD, FPCP
1800 – 2000 JANSSEN DINNER SYMPOSIUM
The Novel Therapeutic for Mixed Dementia & Vascular Dementia Management
Timo J. Erkinjuntti, MD
2000 FELLOWSHIP NIGHT (ABBOTT)
"PNA Full Moon Luau"

November 22, 2002

0830 – 0930 SIMULTANEOUS PLATFORM PRESENTATION (I & II)
Platform I: Seizures
Chair: Ma. Socorro Garcia M. Martires, MD
Cochair: Herminihildo H. Gan, MD
Platform II: Infections
Chair: Perry N. Noble, MD.
Cochair: Regina Victoria R. Reyes, MD
0930 – 1015 PNA-UCB POSTER COMPETITION (Sessions III and IV)
Session Chair: Joel Advincula, MD, FPNA
1015 – 1045 WHEN TO ANTI-COAGULATE
Antonio Miguel L. Dans MD, FPCP
1045 – 1100 FREE TIME
1100 – 1200 NEUROLOGY CROSSFIRE: BRAIN AND HEART ISSUES
Pro: Manuel M. Mariano, MD FAFN
Robert N. Gan, MD, FPNA
Con: Sixto R. Ordono, MD
Alejandro C. Baroque II, MD, FPNA
Resource Person:
Antonio Miguel L. Dans, MD, FPCP
Moderator:
Ester S. Bitanga, MD, FPNA
1200 – 1400 UCB LUNCH SYMPOSIUM
Recent Advances in the Management of Epilepsy
Ilo E. Leppik, MD
1415 CITY TOUR

November 23, 2002

0830 – 0930 SIMULTANEOUS PLATFORM PRESENTATION (III & IV)
Platform III: Strokes
Chair: Teodoro Rio M. Manalang, MD
Cochair: Levi S. Rejuso, MD
Platform IV: Miscellaneous
Chair: Perry N. Noble, MD
Cochair: Rhodora Madrid-Reyes, MD
0930 – 1000 BRAIN MECHANISMS UNDERLYING SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATH
Joven R. Cuanang, MD, FPNA
1000 – 1030 NEUROLOGY OF CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE
Rhandy Pe Benito, MD, FPNA
1030 – 1130 PNA-PFIZER RETROSPECTIVE RESEARCH PAPER COMPETITION
Session Chair: Ephraim A. Maranan
Judges: Brigido Carandang, MD, FPNA (Chair)
Dante Bornales, MD, FPNA
Romeo Enriquez, MD, FPNA
1130 – 1200 HISTORY OF THE PHILIPPINE NEUROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
Martesio Perez, MD, FPNA
1200 – 1400 HI-EISAI LUNCH SYMPOSIUM
The Leading Role of Donepezil in the Management of Dementia
Simeon M. Marasigan, MD, FPNA
1400 -1500 PNA-OTSUKA PROSPECTIVE RESEARCH PAPER COMPETITION
Session Chair: Alejandro F. Diaz, MD, FPNA
Judges: Ma. Felicidad Soto, MD, FPNA (Chair)
Paul Pasco, MD, FPNA
Evelyn Madriaga, MD, FPNA
1500 – 1600 SANOFI MERIENDA SYMPOSIUM
Atherothrombosis is a Systemic Disease – Focus on the Subsystem
Maria Teresa A. Cañete, MD, FPNA
1600 – 1645 NEUROTOXIC EFFECTS OF CARDIOVASCULAR DRUGS
Carissa Paz C. Dioquino, MD, FPNA
1645 – 1745 BUSINESS MEETING
1745 HOLY MASS – Celebrant: Bishop Antonio Tobias
1900 Closing Ceremonies and Induction of the New Fellows and Officers of the Philippine Neurological Association

Guests of Honor: Atty. Raul S. Roco
Hon. Mary Jane C. Ortega

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Day 2	Dr. Joel Advincula
Day 3	Dr. Dante P. Bornales
Day 4	Dr. Manolette C. Guerrero

NEUROSCIENCE

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DTI issues new rules on consumer groups

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has issued a new set of guidelines on the accreditation of consumer organizations in the country.

These new guidelines will ensure that only legitimate private sector groups are involved in the trade department's consumer rights advocacy and enforcement campaign, Trade Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr. said.

Cristobal said under Department Administrative Order 10, accredited consumer groups could undertake information campaigns, join the trade department's consultations and report violations of the Consumer Act of the Philippines.

Cristobal said the accreditation program of consumer groups would weed out "groups that merely pretend to be consumer oriented but actually promote crass consumerism."

Cristobal said there was a need to determine qualified and competent organizations because they would be tapped as duly authorized representatives of consumers on their complaints.

Based on DAO 10, consumer groups can apply either as a national (with at least 75 members and chapters in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao) and local (at least 30 members for towns and 50 for cities).

Mutual fund industry doubles business, sees growth next year

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE MUTUAL fund industry has doubled its business in the first nine months of the year, and industry practitioners are expecting the same pace of growth next year, led by increased investments in fixed-income funds.

Investment Company Association of the Philippines chair Artemio Tanchoco Jr. told reporters on Friday that as of September this year, mutual funds, or so-called investment companies, had grown P22 billion from P11 billion in end-2001.

The 2001 figure had also been more than twice the industry's size of P5 billion in 2000.

"We can also double again for the year 2003," Tanchoco forecast. "Everyone is noticing a shift from ordinary instruments (to mutual funds). I think it's because the fixed income funds have been able to do well."

Mutual funds are a portfolio of securities held and managed on behalf of investors by an investment company.

There are three main types of mutual funds: fixed-income, growth and balanced.

The fixed-income fund makes investments in fixed-income securities such as bonds and treasury bills.

A growth fund invests in companies that are expected to provide capital appreciation, over the long term, usually in stocks of listed companies.

A balanced fund has investments balanced between stocks and bonds.

Tanchoco noted that investors were now moving investments into fixed-income funds because these funds were now providing an average interest of 7 percent.

Investments in mutual funds are not subject to capital gains or income tax following tax reforms.

As a result, fixed-income funds now account for the bulk of the P22 billion industry, followed by balanced funds.

Growth funds account for the smallest share given the poor performance of the stock market.

"Aside from the yield, there are more funds organized in the last three years," Tanchoco said of the reasons behind the industry apparently phenomenal growth. "More of the large players noticed or realized they should be in this market."

Tanchoco also pointed out that the establishment of dollar funds have also attracted investors in mutual funds.

The biggest mutual fund or investment company in the Philippines today is Ayala Life Fixed Income Fund Inc., which accounts for half or P11 billion of the industry.

Asiatrust unveils plan to raise P700M in tier 2

By Elena R. Torrijos

ASIATRUST Bank is planning to raise as much as P700 million in tier 2 capital in anticipation of pressures on its capital base from the country's forthcoming adoption of international banking regulations.

In a news briefing on Friday, Asiatrust president Dionisio Ong said Asiatrust would raise the tier 2 capital from an investment by a multilateral institution or organization that shared its development objectives.

"Tier 2 capital" is a term used to describe the capital adequacy of a bank. It is secondary bank capital that includes items such as undisclosed reserves, general loss reserves, subordinated term debt and more.

"We will require higher risk-weight on SME (small and medium enterprise) lending because Basle II will take effect in 2006. It's something we have to consider now and prepare for because we want to do more SME lending in the future," Ong explained.

Asiatrust is geared primarily to lending to small and medium-scale enterprises, and Basle II, an international banking accord, will require banks to set aside 10 percent of the risk-weight rating assigned to certain types of borrowers or credit.

A banker explained that a loan to the government, for instance, would have zero risk-weight. There is no need to set aside capital, but an unsecured loan to an ordinary company may carry a risk weight of 150 percent. The bank, therefore, will have to set aside 10 percent of 1.5 times the amount lent or bank exposure to that company.

Ong said the plan to raise tier 2 capital was not immediate, but that 2003 looked like a good year to do an issue because there was usually strong economic growth before an election year.

The bank is willing to raise the maximum amount, which is half of its total tier 1 capital now equivalent to P1.46 billion.

RP soon to be rice-sufficient, says Ramos

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—The operations of major power and irrigation dams in Northern and Central Luzon are expected to boost rice production in the country, according to former President Fidel Ramos.

Ramos on Monday visited the $1.2-billion San Roque multipurpose dam project, one of the independent power producers whose contract Ramos approved.

The dam is expected to begin operating next year.

He said with the operations of the San Roque and the Casecnan multi-purpose irrigation and power project, the Philippines could produce the stocks needed to feed the country's growing population.

The Philippines imports an average 100,000 metric tons of rice per year, Ramos said.

He said this projection was coupled with the renewed interest of farm owners to rehabilitate their farms.

The renewed vigor in redeveloping the agricultural sector was a result of the recent opening of the CMIPP and the expected operations of SR-MDP in San Manuel, Pangasinan, Ramos said.

The SRMDP was designed to harness the Agno River for the irrigation of 87,000 hectares of what used to be rain-fed agricultural land in Pangasinan and Tarlac.

The project, according to Ramos, is not merely a source of power or energy.

"In fact, the power component of the dam (which is 360 megawatt) is very minimal," he said.

But the funding for the SRMDP's irrigation component is still being sourced after the Japan Bank for Intl. Cooperation rejected a loan because of protests by affected residents in Pangasinan and Benguet.

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Economic managers readying 'frightening' numbers for 2003

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE DEVELOPMENT Budget Coordination Committee is set to announce "frightening yet realistic" fiscal numbers in the next two days.

Economic managers are coming to terms with a worst-case scenario where a budget deficit of P210 billion this year will lead to a gap of between P190 billion and P200 billion in the government's budget next year.

Faced with a deficit this year that may hit 5.2 percent of gross domestic product, some economic managers are already warming up to the possibility that next year's deficit will reach 4.5 to 4.7 percent of GDP.

Consequently, the target of bringing down the deficit to zero by 2006 may have to be pushed to as far back as 2010.

"Clearly, the 2006 balanced budget timetable is no longer achievable. If the deficit hits 5 percent of GDP this year, then next year it would likely range from 4.5 to 4.7 percent of GDP. The government has no choice but to accept these numbers because there is very little room to maneuver expenditures," a well-placed source said.

The original deficit target for 2003 is P142.1 billion, or 3.3 percent of GDP, which must grow to between 5 and 5.5 percent.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said three weeks ago that the 2003 deficit might have to be revised to about P160 billion, or 3.8 percent of GDP.

This year, the original target was P130 billion or 3.3 percent of GDP, growing at a projected four to 4.5 percent.

However, weak revenues have prompted the government to revise this year's deficit target to 4 percent of GDP, or about P155 billion, then to 4.5 percent of GDP, or between P175 billion and P180 billion.

However, the fiscal gap as of the first 10 months is believed to have reached P180 billion or even more.

A 5-percent deficit-to-GDP ratio would be worse than the 4.9-percent deficit ratio under former President Joseph Estrada.

Camacho refused to elaborate on the numbers but said the final announcement would be done as soon as the members of the economic team could agree on what the deficit should be for 2003 and in the medium term.

"Next year's numbers would be based on what the expected revenues would be," he said.

Sources say the estimated revenues for 2003 may have to be reduced by about P40 billion, given the disappointing performance, particularly of the Bureau of Customs this year.

No snag in $500-M bond float, investors assured

ALMOST snagged by confusion among market players due to the reported courtesy resignation of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho on Friday, government and banking sources assured that the $500-million, 10-year global bond issue would push through.

Before wire reports of Camacho's courtesy resignation made investors jittery, sources said the book-building, or the process where underwriters take orders from investors for the bonds, led to a $100-million oversubscription.

But the indicative spreads on the bonds, according to sources, have widened to about 493 basis points over 10-year US treasuries of 4 percent from an earlier spread of 470 basis points.

A government source said investors would price the issue today.

The price is the amount by which investors would like the issuer, in this case the government, pay them.

Camacho refused to comment on the transaction but said he hoped the bond issue would push through, the first time that he admitted on record that the government was in the market for a prospective borrowing.

HSBC Corp., Salomon Smith Barney and UBS Warburg were tasked to underwrite a maximum of $500 million in 10-year global bonds.

Davaoeños press use of airport as landing site

By Abigail L. Ho

LOCAL officials in Davao City are asking the government's air services negotiators to offer the Davao International Airport as a landing site for foreign carriers.

In a statement, Davao City councilman Peter Lavina complained that the government had overlooked Davao airport as a landing site for foreign carriers in previous air services negotiations.

Lavina underscored the need for more international air service to Davao, saying the province's new international airport would start operating in the first quarter of next year.

If it would not be included in future air talks, the taxpayers' money that was used to fund the new airport would just go to waste, he said.

"The DOTC (Department of Transportation and Communications) should seriously look into how it can pay the loans that funded the new airport if it cannot entice more planes to land here," he said.

He said Transportation Undersecretary Arturo Valdez, head of the Philippine air panel in the air talks with Japan late last month, did not even consider the needs of the soon-to-open Davao International Airport when they negotiated for new frequencies and destinations.

He pointed out that Davao had been on top of Japan's tourist list, earning the moniker "Davao-kou" or "Little Tokyo."

Only Singapore's Silkair and Indonesia's Merpati Indonesia are currently landing in Davao City.

Before the Asian financial crisis in 1997, Malaysian Airlines also served the Davao-Kota Kinabalu-Kuala Lumpur route.

More than enough rice in Ilocos, says NFA

SAN JUAN, La Union—With National Food Authority warehouses bulging with imported rice and procured *palay*, there will be no shortage of the commodity in the Ilocos and Cordillera regions this year and even during the lean months in 2003, an NFA official said.

"Even if El Niño strikes at its worst affecting rice harvest, we will never starve here," said Vic Molina, assistant regional director of the NFA.

Molina said the NFA has an inventory of 1.7 million bags of rice from Thailand, India and Vietnam. The rice shipments arrived in the San Fernando City pier last month, he said.

The NFA has also bought 218,376 bags of local rice, he said.

From Oct. 1 to Nov. 7, the NFA bought 40,000 bags of *palay* from farmers belonging to cooperatives.

The NFA has earmarked some P370 million for its *palay*-procurement program and has reopened its 33 buying stations in the Ilocos, including Abra and Benguet, Molina said. NFA buys *palay* at P9 a kilogram.

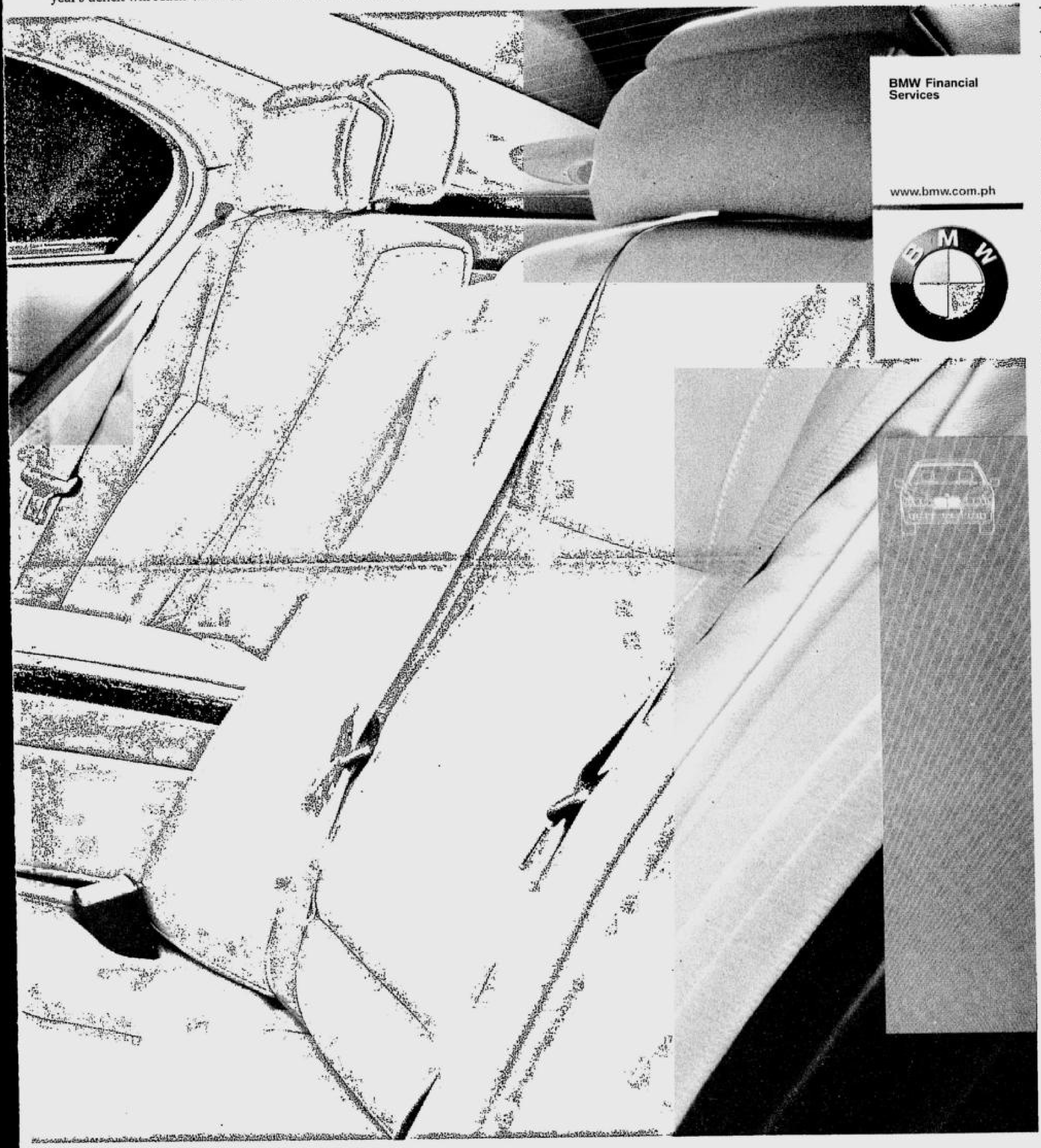
The agency is expected to buy 778,000 bags of rice for emergency situations and to build its buffer stock.

The NFA rice procurement program is being implemented to provide farmers with an alternative market for their produce particularly when farm prices are low, Molina said.

NFA warehouses are located in several towns of La Union, Benguet, Ilocos Sur and Abra. The imported rice is being distributed through 1,550 accredited retail outlets that include Tindahan ni Gloria Labandera, Bigasan ni Gloria sa Palengke and 158 rolling stores.

Reinerio Belarmino, Department of Agriculture assistant regional director, said the El Niño phenomenon would reduce rainfall by 10-20 percent but this would not affect most crops in the region like rice and tobacco.

More than P31 million has been released to mitigate the impact of the drought, he said. The money was used for the purchase of shallow tube wells and the construction of small farm reservoirs.



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Balloon payment	Php 1,540,000
(You can choose to pay this total amount at the end of the term, or trade-in the vehicle. You also have the option to re-finance this amount if you wish to keep the vehicle.)	

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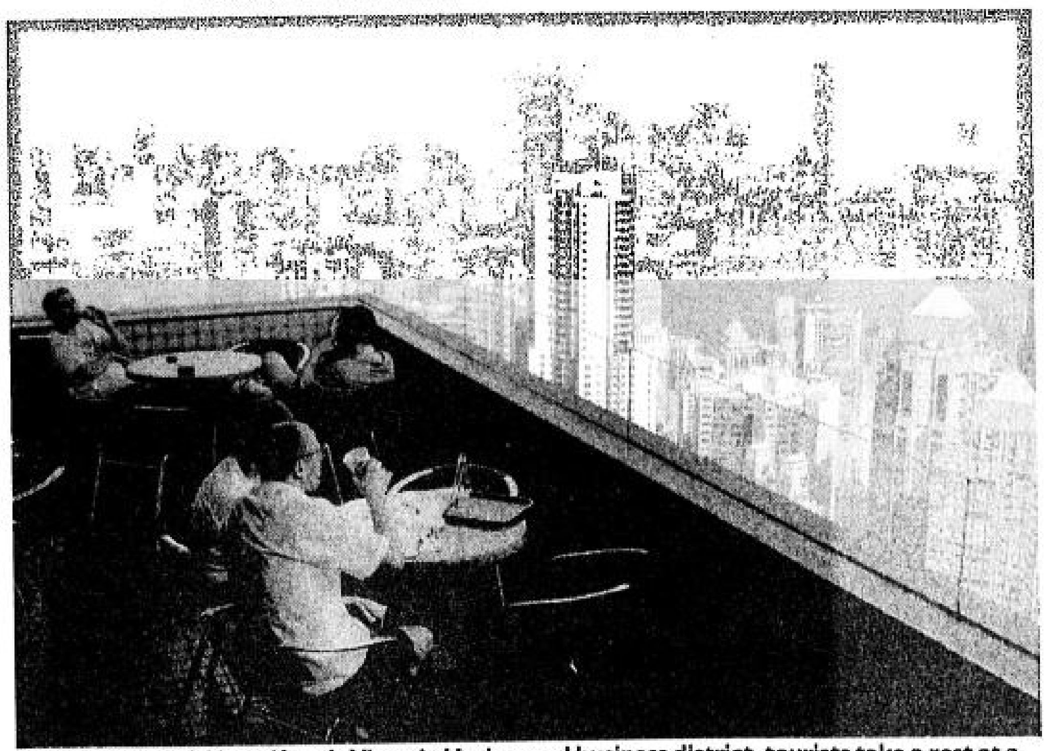

OVERLOOKING Hong Kong's Victoria Harbor and business district, tourists take a rest at a coffee shop in Hong Kong. Hong Kong remains the world's freest economy, but its claim to that title is weakening because of a ballooning budget deficit and fears of more government intervention, according to a survey by the Heritage Foundation and the Wall Street Journal. AP

US manufacturers slide

WASHINGTON—US manufacturers crumbled in October, reining in production and throwing a cloud over the economic outlook, experts said Friday after the release of latest data.

"The manufacturing sector is in disarray as output collapsed again," Naroff Economic Advisors president Joel Naroff said.

"The industrial heartland is on its back and sinking fast." US factories, power plants and mines cut production by 0.8 percent in October from the previous month, the third decline in a row, the Federal Reserve said Friday.

Manufacturing output alone declined 0.7.

"It is correct to say that the massive cutback in motor vehicle assemblies was a major factor in the sharp decline of total production," Naroff said.

"But if you go through the details, the industries that had increases in output are few and far between." Output of durable goods such as washing machines or cars dropped 1.2 percent while production of other goods eased 0.2 percent.

Automobile production slumped 5.2 percent, partly because of shortages of parts during a shutdown of ports on the US west coast.

The grim manufacturing news overshadowed a mixed bag of economic data, which showed: The key University of Michigan barometer of consumer sentiment shot up to 85 points in the first reading for November from 80.6 points in October.

Experts said the October sentiment figures had been hit by sniper attacks but the improvement in November was nonetheless an encouraging sign after retail sales held steady in October.

"Increased confidence should lead to increased consumer spending, which is just the power-pill the economy sorely needs," said Wells Fargo Banks chief economist Sung Won Sohn.

An unexpected leap in automobile prices sent overall US wholesale prices surging 1.1 percent in October. But experts said core inflationary pressures remained low when car prices were excluded.

US businesses increased their inventories by a higher-than-expected 0.5 percent in September, the largest gain in nearly two years. Much of the increase was caused by retailers left with unsold automobiles after a slump in previously buoyant sales, one analyst said.

"I say the consumer confidence is back to normal but I don't expect any upward trend. I worry about the manufacturing sector. On net, this does not give me a good feeling about the economy," Naroff said. *AFP*

US retailers keep margins up

CHICAGO—US retailers kept markdowns to a minimum last quarter, driving surprisingly strong profits, but they may need to start slashing prices again to tempt cash-strapped holiday shoppers.

Burned by last year's heavy discounts that reduced earnings, retailers have kept inventories leaner this year, which means less merchandise to mark down.

But with consumers accustomed to holding out for big last-minute holiday sales, analysts said retailers might have to cut prices anyway.

"I'm expecting it to continue to be a promotional environment but not as bad as last year," said Frank Badillo, senior economist for consultant Retail Forward.

From mid-priced department stores like Kohl's Corp. and Target Corp. to upscale retailers such as Macy's and Bloomingdale's parent Federated Department Stores Inc., earnings beat most analysts' forecasts this week as profit margins improved.

Even struggling apparel retailer Gap Inc. managed to reverse a year-earlier loss as its margins increased, drawing praise from analysts for keeping inventories light.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. , the world's biggest retailer, also recorded better margins, helped by higher clothing sales.

Analysts said the key driver of stronger-than-expected margins and earnings was fewer markdowns as retailers kept inventories low and negotiated better prices from suppliers. *Reuters*

Northwest not about to change DC-9 planes

CHICAGO— Northwest Airlines Corp. is in no hurry to replace its 169 aging DC-9 aircraft and sees a buyers market for new or used planes lasting for some time, chief executive Richard Anderson said on Friday.

Northwest, the Eagan, Minnesota-based No. 4 US air carrier, is slated to receive 53 planes from regional jets to wide-bodies next year and 47 more aircraft in 2004, though it remains in talks to defer some of the 2004 deliveries.

The scheduled deliveries barely touch the huge fleet of DC-9s that Northwest owns outright, many decades old.

Manufacturers may be eager to replace the jets at what would be billions of dollars at list prices, but Anderson remains uncommitted.

"It is a buyer's market and it will continue to be a buyer's market going forward," Anderson told analysts in a presentation at a conference in Florida that was Webcast.

"Fortunately for us, we don't have to make a replacement choice on the DC-9 for a long time."

Northwest lost $310 million through the first nine months of 2002 amid the worst air travel slump in history. It expects to continue cost cuts, sees capacity as flat next year and does not expect industry revenue to improve, Anderson said.

It is not the best time to commit to capital expenditures, nor is there a great replacement for the DC-9, of which Northwest has several models that seat from 78 to 125 passengers, Anderson said. The carrier has about 540 aircraft.

Northwest opted some time ago to refurbish its DC-9s rather than buy new planes, a decision Anderson sticks by even more adamantly as prices drop on both new and used planes.

"My point simply is, to all the suppliers, that that downward pressure on price needs to be reflected in our deals.

It will be reflected in our deals one way or the other," he said. *Reuters*

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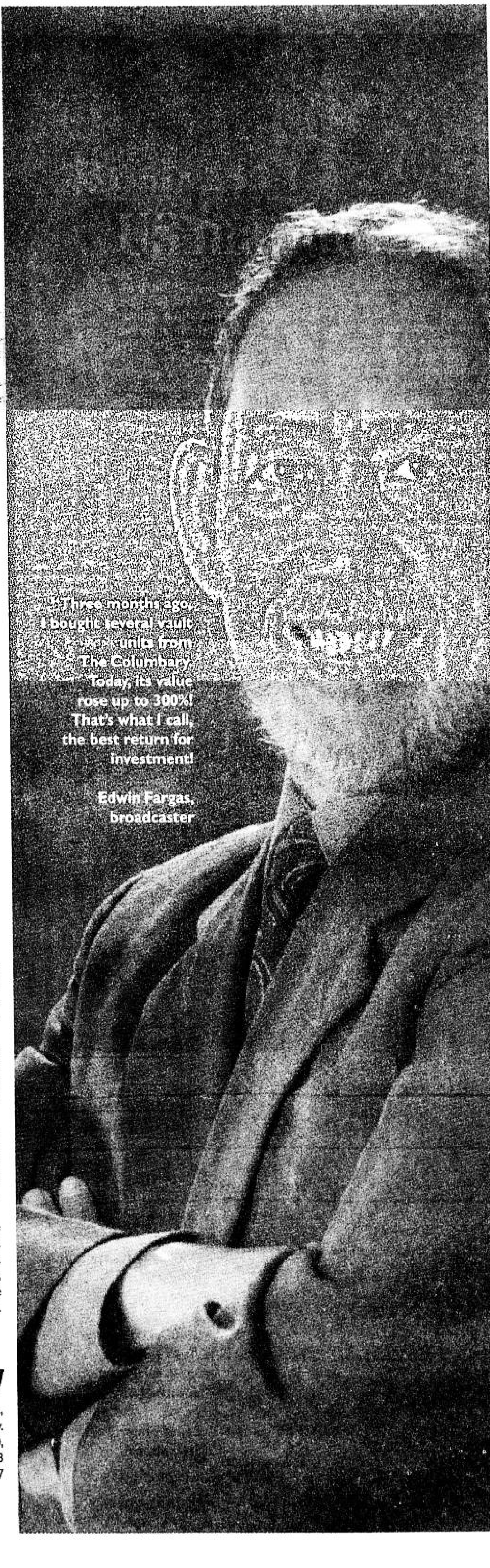
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CANADA'S VIEW

Europe, Japan vague on farm subsidy issues

OTTAWA—European and Japanese proposals about how to reform farm subsidies at upcoming World Trade Organization negotiations "lack specificity" that's needed to move talks forward, a Canadian trade official said on Friday.

"Progress to date has been modest," the senior trade official told reporters in a technical briefing ahead of a special negotiating session of the WTO agriculture committee next week in Geneva.

"None of the proposals are suggesting fundamental change as to how we approach the rules in agriculture. It's really about how deep and how fast we're going to go in the reform process," the official said.

The committee is under pressure to have the basic text of its agreement ready by March 31, including agreements on the depth of cuts to farm subsidies and deadlines for implementing the cuts, officials said.

Sticking points will be discussed by agriculture ministers in September.

"The agricultural negotiations are really at the heart of the development agenda," the trade official said, noting that developing countries want to see farm reforms before addressing other trade issues under the WTO.

Developing countries complain that massive European and US subsidies distort world agricultural trade, and they are unwilling to provide more access to their markets without major subsidy cuts, the official said.

The United States has proposed cutting all export subsidies over five years, slashing agricultural tariffs worldwide from 62 percent to 15 percent and reducing the ceiling on trade-distorting subsidies by more than $100 billion.

"We don't agree with some of the elements of the US proposal, but at least they've put ideas forward," the Canadian official said, complaining that Europe, Japan, and Korea have been short on details.

The Cairns Group of countries that rely on farm exports is calling for the gradual elimination of subsidies and more access to key markets.

Canada is part of the Cairns Group, although it seeks to maintain protections for its dairy and poultry sectors.

Officials defended the Canadian position as practical, explaining that most countries have sensitive industries that need to phase out tariffs over time.

"In our view, that's a much more realistic approach than some of the proposals that are out there, that are pretending to be very ambitious but, at the end of the day, we know will not be acceptable to the majority of countries," the official said.

Reuters

Capellas promises to improve operations at WorldCom

NEW YORK—Freshly named the new chairman and chief executive of WorldCom Inc., Michael Capellas promised to improve ethics at the scandal-plagued telecommunications company and pledged to lead it out of bankruptcy without selling off huge chunks of assets.

Capellas, 48, comes to WorldCom after wrestling with another knotty business challenge: serving as president of Hewlett-Packard Co. after its $19-billion acquisition of Compaq Computer Corp. He had been Compaq's boss for nearly three years.

When he officially takes over at Clinton, Mississippi-based WorldCom on Dec. 2, he will have to rebuild the company's image, reassure uneasy customers and 60,000 employees, and satisfy the creditors, court-appointed monitor and other parties associated with the biggest bankruptcy in US history.

"I'm actually pretty jazzed about this," Capellas said at a news conference in New York on Friday. "If there's one thing I can commit to you: I'll have some things to learn, but nobody else will ever work harder."

As CEO, Capellas replaces John Sidgmore, who was named interim replacement in April for Bernard Ebbers, who used dozens of acquisitions to build WorldCom from a small phone company into a telecom giant.

As chair, Capellas takes over for Bert Roberts, who came to WorldCom through its 1997 takeover of long-distance carrier MCI.

Sidgmore said it was too soon to tell whether he and Roberts will remain on the board.

Capellas said he does not intend to replace the entire management team but will in some cases bring in "people I'm comfortable with and have a relationship with."

Sidgmore said he would stay with WorldCom, first to advise Capellas and then in a technology position that suits him better, such as "chief strategist."

"I don't really care what my job title is," he said before suggesting, with a huge laugh, that it might as well be "Free at last."

The changes at the top come as WorldCom is making a concerted effort to turn attention beyond its $9 billion accounting fraud, which has led to criminal charges against five former executives and federal investigations of the company.

WorldCom has been running newspaper ads detailing its improved financial condition, and Sidgmore said WorldCom had become cash-flow positive and had $1.5 billion in the bank.

Capellas said he wanted to maintain WorldCom's large presence in the phone, Internet and data networking businesses and would not have taken the job if WorldCom's creditors were mainly interested in liquidating its valuable assets.

AP

Dell shares fall amid sell-off

NEW YORK—Shares in computer companies fell on Friday after Dell Computer Corp. gave a disappointing outlook for the fourth quarter and a research firm raised concerns that holiday-related personal computer sales will be weak.

Research firm Gartner Dataquest said worldwide personal computer shipments would not show a big jump as both consumers and businesses cut back on purchases, predicting only a 1.5-percent rise in sales from last year.

"We're awfully concerned about the economic situation. There's just a lot of uncertainty out there and people tend not to like that," said Gartner Dataquest analyst George Shiffler.

Gartner sees worldwide PC shipments of 35.1 million units in the fourth quarter and total 2002 shipments of 127.3 million, up 1.8 percent from 2002.

PC sales have been slow for about two years, hurt by a downturn in the economy that has corporations cutting their technology budgets. In addition, with little compelling new technology, consumers have held back on buying replacement PCs.

Dell said on Thursday during an earnings announcement that it expected fourth-quarter earnings of 23 cents per share on revenue of $9.7 billion. That was in line with analyst estimates but some investors said on Thursday they had been hoping for more.

Company executives declined during a conference call to say much about how sales related to the end-year holiday season were doing, saying that it was a little too early to tell. They also said it was still too early to call a rebound in demand.

The fourth quarter is typically the strongest for consumer sales, which have become increasingly important for PC makers as corporations have cut back on technology spending.

"(Dell was) hesitant to make a strong statement about consumer PC sales this holiday season," said John Park, an analyst for money management firm Independence Investments, which is a unit of John Hancock.

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EU to ask states to scrap air deals

BRUSSELS—The European Commission will ask EU states next week to rip up their air traffic agreements with the United States and back its ambition to negotiate a European Union-wide "open skies" deal with Washington.

According to a document obtained by Reuters on Friday, the EU's executive arm will tell the bloc's 15 member states that they should no longer cut bilateral deals on take-off and landing rights with non-EU countries.

EU officials expect the Commission to send its request to national governments on Tuesday in response to a landmark court ruling last week which said aviation agreements between the United States and eight EU states broke EU law.

The move is the culmination of more than a decade's wrangling between the Commission and national governments over whether airline rights should be negotiated at a national level by each EU member state or at pan-European level.

"Following the court case there is now legal incertitude. We need to clarify things very quickly," an EU official said.

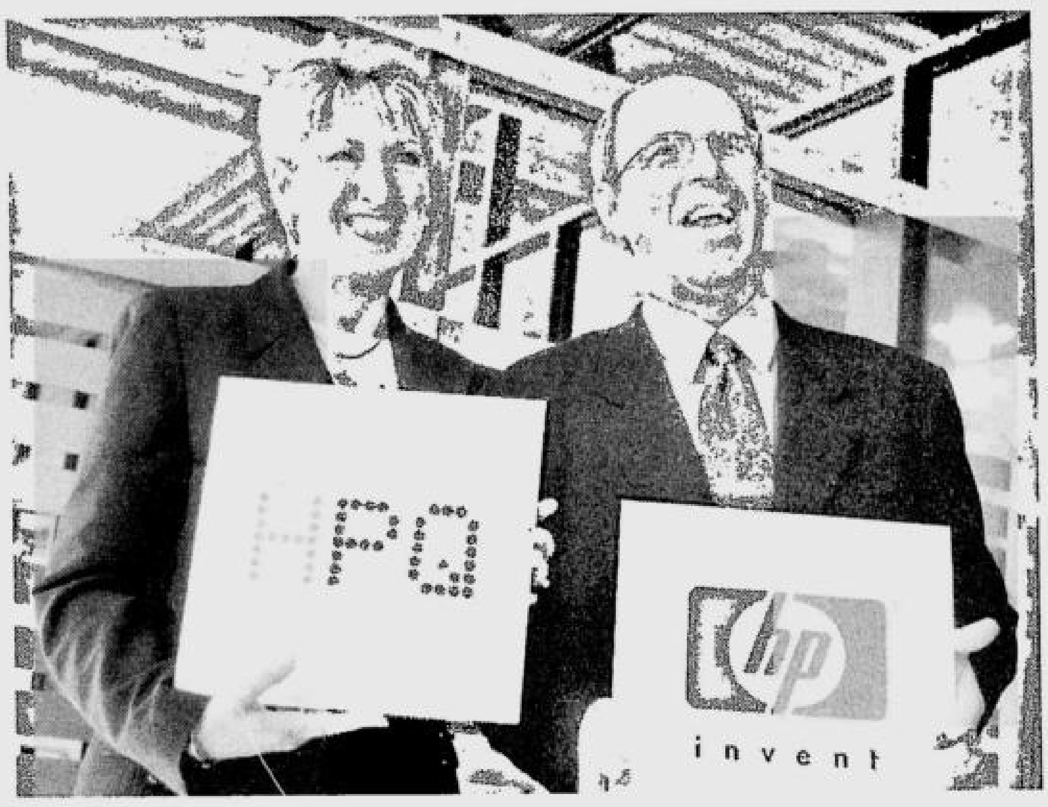
Despite the ruling, the bilateral deals remain in place.

The European Court of Justice ruled last Tuesday that bilateral deals broke EU law for two reasons. Firstly, they only allow rights to airlines based in that member state and therefore discriminate against airlines from other EU countries.

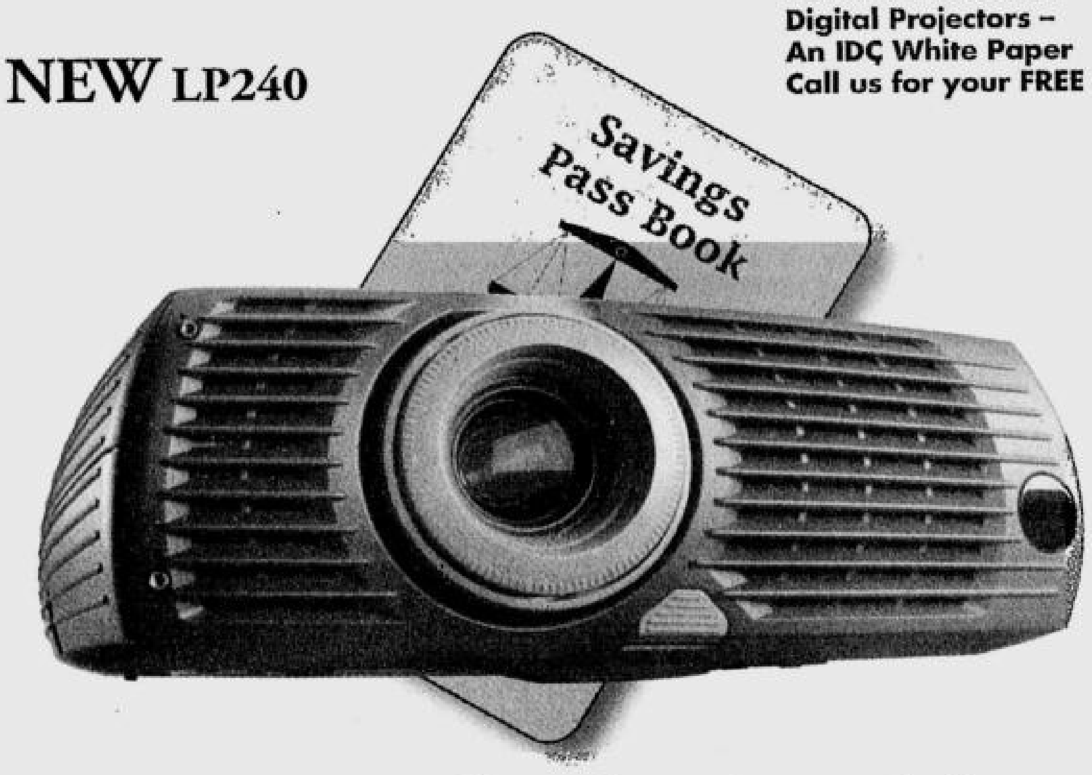
Secondly, some of them deal with policy areas, such as computer reservations systems and pricing, which are covered by EU rather than national law.

Although the EU has gradually moved toward a single market for air travel, many EU governments have jealously guarded their sovereignty over international flying rights which are governed by the 1944 Chicago Convention.

Reuters



HEWLETT-PACKARD Co. said Capellas (R) will leave the company amid reports he could move to WorldCom, sending shares of HP down 11 percent. An industry source said that Capellas was the top candidate to take over John Sidgmore's chief executive job at WorldCom Inc., which has filed for bankruptcy. Capellas is shown with fellow HP executive Carly Fiorina, chair and CEO, in Palo Alto, California, in this May 7, 2002 file photo. REUTERS



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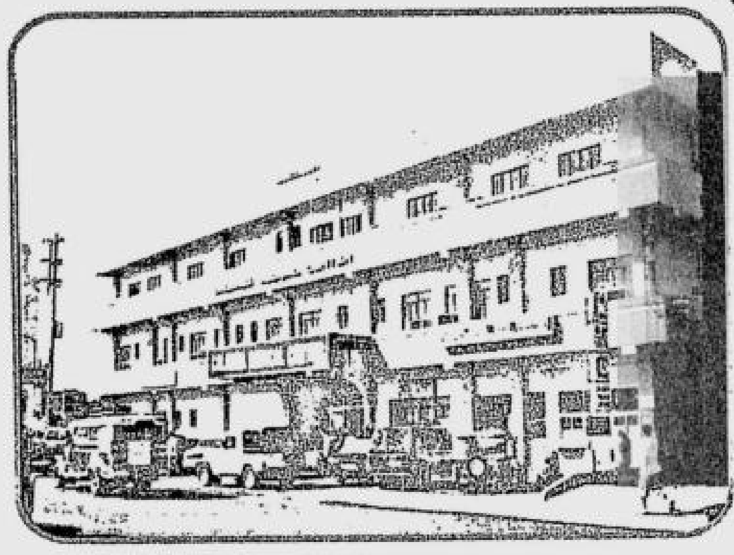

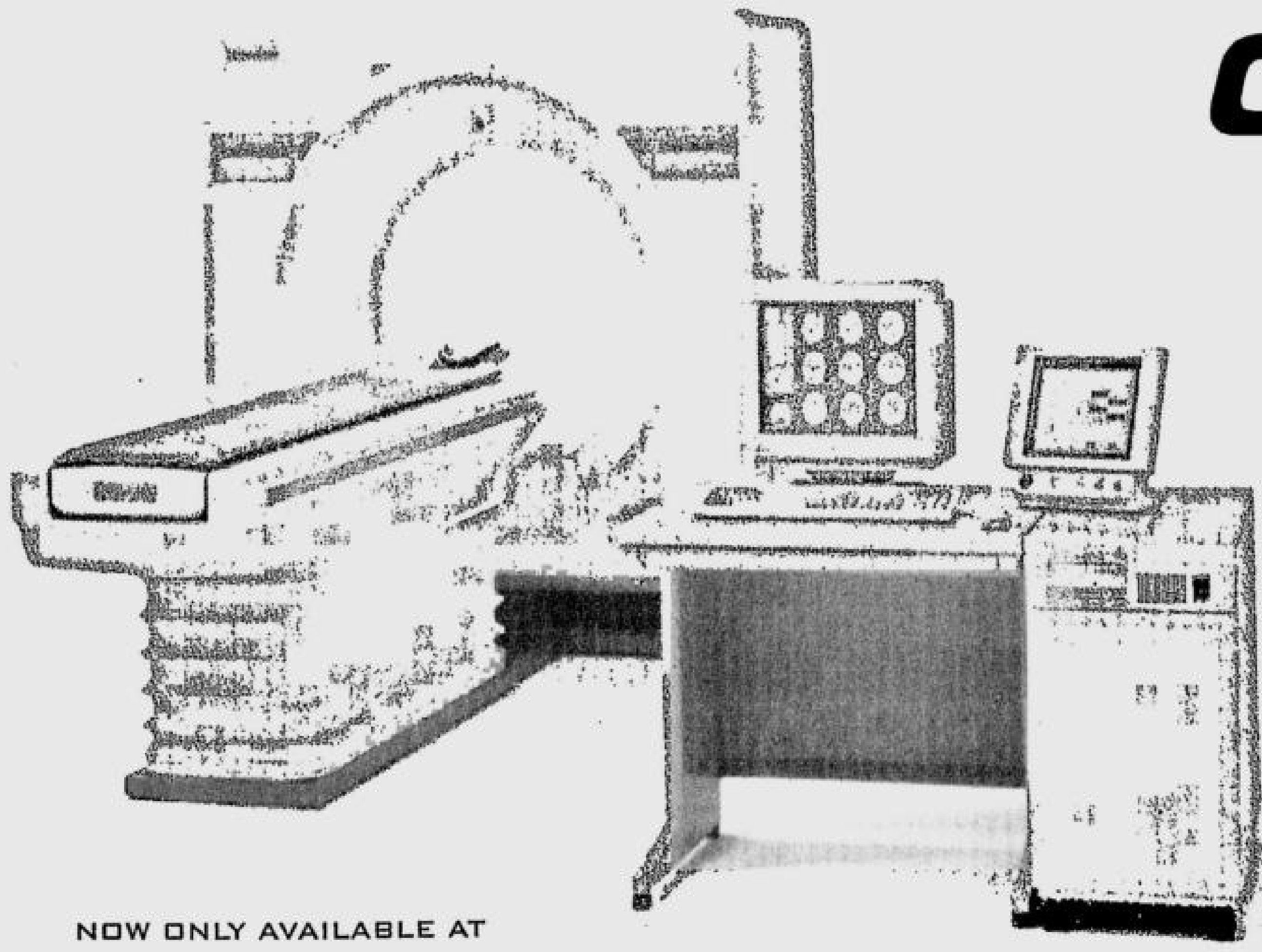

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Honesty the new best policy on Wall St.

NEW YORK—Wall Street stock analysts finally are telling people what they really think.

After years of pacifying corporate clients by putting ambiguous "hold" ratings on stocks that they actually recommend investors ditch, analysts are talking straight and rating more shares with a candid "sell."

Why the sudden courage? Look no further than new rules requiring analysts list the number of "buys," "holds" and "sells" on research reports. A wide-ranging probe into overly bullish research also has rebuilt walls between research and investment banking units, enabling analysts to speak more freely.

"Clearly, a lot of these 'sells' are emanating from the fact that analysts now have to say what they mean and mean what they say," said Chuck Hill, director of Wall Street analyst estimate tracking firm Thomson First Call.

Analysts like Salomon Smith Barney's former telecommunications analyst Jack Grubman have come under fire for touting stocks to bring their employers business advising companies on mergers and new stock offerings.

In the latest example of Wall Street's newfound boldness, Merrill Lynch on Thursday put a "sell" rating on computer chipmaker and technology bellwether Intel Corp. and cut other semiconductor companies to "sell."

JP Morgan on Friday cut top US conglomerate and Dow Jones industrial average component General Electric Co. to an "underweight."

The downgrades obviously reflect the particular analysts' expectations for the companies.

But the changes also reflect a growing push on Wall Street to issue more "sell" recommendations, as well as to simplify rating systems research departments used in the past.

As recently as December 2000, "sell" ratings made up less than one percent of the ratings on Wall Street, Hill said. That began to change as the bull market crumbled and individual investors started blaming stock analysts for touting picks. *Reuters*

US stocks steady until end-Nov.

NEW YORK—With few big companies set to release earnings this week and Iraq still hanging over the market, stocks are likely to remain steady until Thanksgiving.

Economic statistics are pointing both ways on Wall Street, with signs the consumer—the pillar of a slow economy—is willing to keep spending offset by evidence that manufacturing capacity and business investment are at low levels.

Add to that the uncertainty the Iraq standoff represents, and markets are unlikely to budge much this week.

"The markets are unable to really trend right now because there is a cloud hanging over the market and it is the Iraq situation, said Paul Cherney, chief real-time market analyst at S&P Marketscope.

"I expect us to go sideways until probably around Thanksgiving."

All three major indexes—the Dow Jones industrial average, the Nasdaq composite and the Standard & Poor's 500—posted a weekly gain on Friday as investors took data on consumer spending as reassurance they are still spending money, easing any fears the economy may slip back into a recession.

Cherney said he was confident stocks are past five-year lows they touched in early October, but investors are trying to juggle too many potential influences.

Also tempering any rise in share prices is a lack of big investment flows into the stock market.

"We had a wonderful lift, but now it's like 'Let's wait and see how things are going,'" he said. "It's going to take more for people to be convinced that it's safe to put your feet back in the water."

The broad-based S&P 500 and the tech-heavy Nasdaq got their biggest single-day bounce in a month on Thursday, when the commerce department reported retail sales in October logged the largest gain in six months.

An unexpectedly strong 0.7 percent when auto sales are stripped out drove share prices higher.

On Friday, surprisingly strong consumer sentiment data helped lift a cloud of worry before analyst downgrades on Intel Corp. and General Electric Co. fanned fears about corporate profits. *Reuters*

STOCK RESEARCH PROBE

CSFB, Citigroup may face $200-M fines

NEW YORK—Credit Suisse First Boston and Citigroup face fines of about $200 million each as part of a settlement with federal and state regulators to resolve probes into stock research, a source familiar with the talks said Friday.

The final amounts of the fines are expected to be discussed at a meeting of regulators on Monday, the source said, adding that the fines will be "in the ballpark" of $200 million each.

A spokesperson for CSFB declined to comment. A spokesperson for Citigroup said that the bank continues to "have active discussions with regulators and can't comment further."

Wall Street's biggest firms have been holding settlement talks with regulators to end multiple investigations into whether research analysts misled retail investors to help win lucrative investment banking deals.

Any settlement is expected to include both fines and a further separation of research departments from investment banks. The Wall Street firms are negotiating with representatives from the US Securities and Exchange Commission, NASD, New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer and other state regulators.

Top securities regulators have said a settlement could be reached by the end of the year. The settlement could also address charges of initial public offering "spinning"—bribing executives with shares of hot stock offerings in exchange for investment banking.

Citigroup unit Salomon Smith Barney, Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and CSFB have been accused of the practice. The companies have denied wrongdoing. CSFB is a unit of Swiss-based Credit Suisse Group. *Reuters*

IBM to launch Linux handheld

NEW YORK—Widening its adoption of the Linux operating system, International Business Machines Corp. on Friday said it would collaborate with Sharp Corp. of Japan on a handheld computer that runs the open source software.

The handheld, aimed at corporate clients, will be launched in the middle of next year.

It will be based on Sharp's Zaurus, which went on sale earlier this year and runs on Linux.

The Zaurus has so far failed to catch on with consumers in a market dominated by handhelds running operating systems from Palm Inc. and Microsoft Corp.

IBM is a big supporter of Linux, which anyone can freely use and modify. While mostly used in Web servers and corporate systems, Linux is seen as a counterweight to Microsoft's dominance in desktop software.

"Linux makes a lot of sense, for multiple reasons," said Rodney Adkins, head of IBM's Pervasive Computing Division. "It's much more attractive for (software) developers to develop for, given its open nature."

The Zaurus will also run software written in Java, a programming language created by Sun Microsystems. It allows software to run on all manner of computers regardless of their operating systems.

The Enterprise Edition Zaurus will allow workers to wirelessly access corporate databases, check inventories and order supplies, the companies said. It will connect to IBM's Websphere business software package and its DB2 database program.

IBM supports similar functions for handhelds with Palm and Microsoft software. *AP*

Delta to trim costs by $2.5B

ATLANTA—Delta Air Lines is launching a low-fare mini-airline at the same time it cuts costs by $2.5 billion more over the next three years.

Delta, the third-largest US airline, needs to further reduce spending to deal with the lingering effects of the Sept. 11 attacks, chief financial officer Michele Burns announced Friday at an industry conference in Key Biscayne, Florida.

Details of the coach-class airline-within-an-airline will be made public by the end of the month, spokesperson Peggy Estes said.

Also Friday, Delta said it reached a tentative agreement with the Air Line Pilots Association for a proposed marketing agreement with Continental Airlines and Northwest Airlines.

The code-share proposal, which is being reviewed by federal regulators, would allow the airlines to sell seats on each other's flights as if they were their own, and to cooperate on frequent flier programs.

JP Morgan airline analyst Jamie Baker said the new low-fare unit, which hasn't been named, would help Delta fend off increasing competition from lower-cost carriers such as AirTran, JetBlue and Southwest.

"Delta's goal is to retard the growth of its discount competitors, and at the same time, more closely align its costs with discounters," Baker said.

Baker said he expected the new Delta unit would try to avoid traditionally congested hubs and concentrate on routes between the Northeast and Southeast. *AP*

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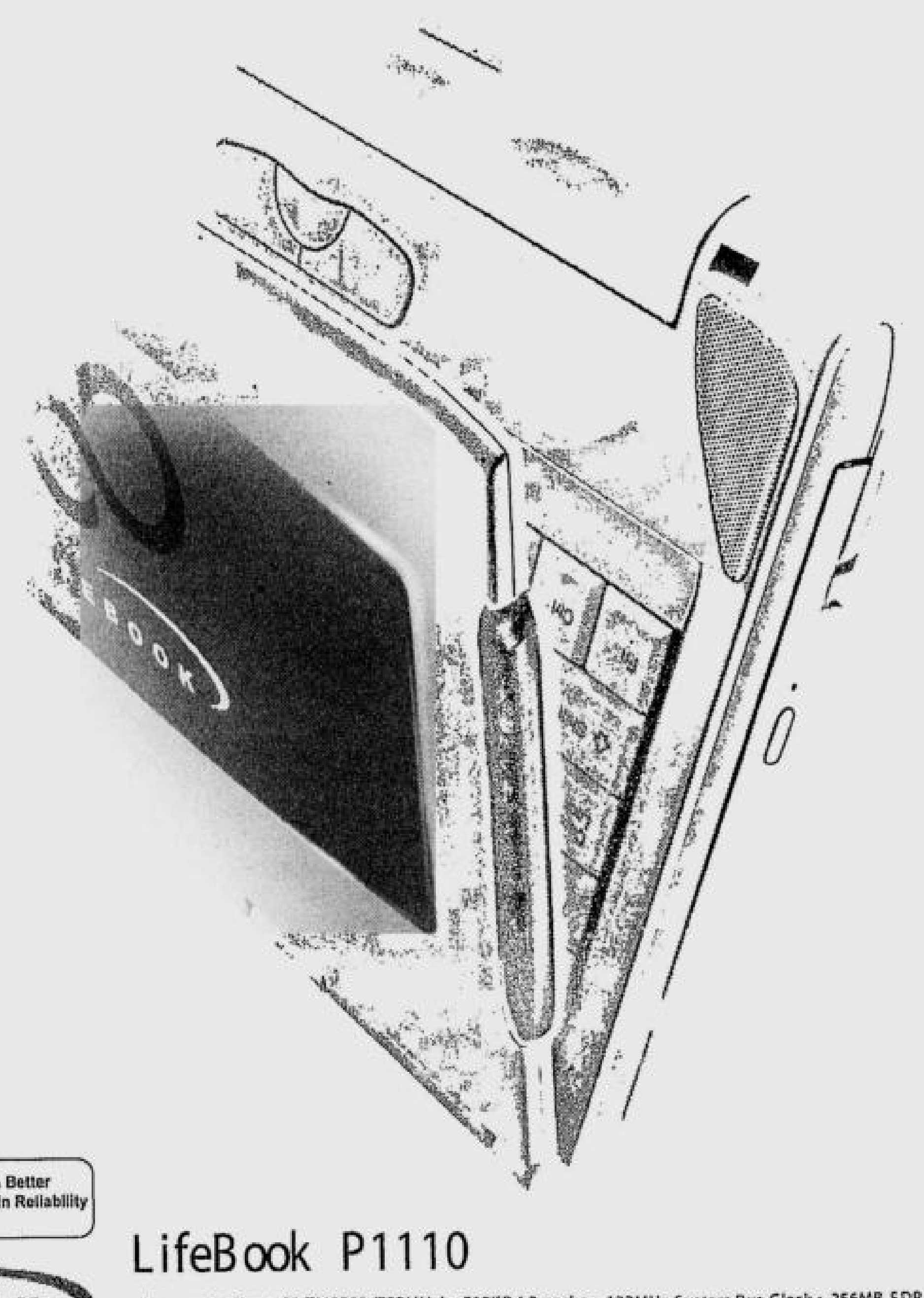

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Day before publication
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12:00 noon
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HOUSE & LOT

MAKATI

SAV Mkll 240m² 09178323826

MANILA

SN ANDRES MLA
NR SSHIWAY Bnew
Twnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge/maid
P2.745M up 8903461 loc 34

MARIKINA

2BR HSE GRGE CONCEPCION DOS 900K 110M² 9112139

PARANAQUE

BnewMervilePark 3M 8133828

PASIG

Kapitolyo P6.5M Nog 6427246

QUEZON CITY

L280m² APO St Cor Lot Sta Mesa Hgts 9298376

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HOUSE & LOT

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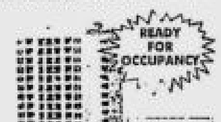

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CONDO/TWNHSE

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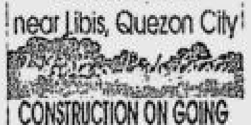

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LAS PINAS

TALON LAS PINAS 204m²@P4500 6873372

PASIG

Greenwoods Ph1 P5T/sqm 65-200sqm P50T D/P 655-3703

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QUEZON CITY

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MANILA

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PARANAQUE

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QUEZON CITY

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Office of the President

BCDA

Bases Conversion Development Authority

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE SALE/PURCHASE OR LEASE OF BCDA-OWNED UNITS IN PACIFIC PLAZA TOWERS ASSET DISPOSITION PROGRAM - PHASE 2

The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting interested proponents to participate in Phase 2 of BCDA's Asset Disposition Program (ADP-Phase 2). ADP Phase 2 involves, among others, the sale or lease of BCDA-owned units in Pacific Plaza Towers in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Interested proponents may submit to BCDA their Letters of Interest/Intent and can obtain the Terms of Reference (TOR) for ADP Phase 2 on Pacific Plaza Towers that outline, among others, the requirements that will enable proponents to submit proposals. Real Estate brokers are welcome to sign up as interested proponents, provided that they disclose the name of their clients in their Letters of Intent/Interest to be submitted to BCDA.

The TOR for the sale or lease of BCDA-owned units in Pacific Plaza Towers will be ready for distribution to interested proponents by **11 November 2002** at the BCDA offices.

A conference among interested proponents is tentatively set for 2:00 p.m., **15 November 2002** at the BCDA Office, Old Officers' Clubhouse, Gozar corner Lucas Streets, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City. The objective of the conference is to discuss the properties/ units, the TOR and other clarifications from interested proponents/ parties. Interested proponents/parties will be informed of the final schedule and venue of the conference through contact numbers submitted to BCDA.

Interested proponents/parties can direct their inquiries to:

THE CHAIRMAN
ADP PHASE 2 COMMITTEE (ADP Com-2) -
Pacific Plaza Towers
BCDA Corporate Center
Gozar corner Lucas Streets, Villamor Air Base
Pasay City

or they can contact Ms. Aileen R. Zosa, Ms. Cherrie Jongco or Ms. Bambie L. Andal at telephone numbers **510-0420** or **510-0411** or at arzosa@bcda.gov.ph or bandal@bcda.gov.ph.

(Sgd.) **CHAIRMAN**
ADP Phase 2 Committee

(PDI - Nov. 8, 12 & 18, 2002)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites authorized dealers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Acquisition of Five (5) Units Asian Utility Vehicles (AUVs). The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

November 11-22, 2002	Issuance and Submission of Registration Requirements
November 26-27, 2002	Notification of Registered Bidders and Issuance of Bid Documents
November 29, 2002 (10:00 AM)	Pre-bidding Conference
December 13, 2002 (9:00 - 10:30 AM)	Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals
(10:45 AM)	Opening of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals

Registration and eligibility requirements can be secured from and submitted to BAC Secretariat, ODAFA, 7th Floor Malinyas Building, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City. Bidding documents and technical specifications may likewise be secured from BAC Secretariat and the same shall be issued to duly registered bidders upon payment of P2,000.00, nonrefundable fee.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY/ INFORMALITY OF THE BIDS RECEIVED AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY.

(SGD.) PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.
Deputy Administrator & Chairman, BAC

(PDI--Nov. 11 & 18, 2002)

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2% w/o Taking Car 7228942/43

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

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HIRING OFC 8518137 TONI

HRD PERSNL 09173660641 FATIMA

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•Acct. Grad. Female 21-25 Yrs Old. Single w/ or w/o Exp. w/Advantage those who have taken CPA review
2 Sales Executive
College Grad. 22-28 Yrs Old. Male / Female w/ or w/o Exp. Fax your resume @ 715-1295

★Ofc Staff 18/45 w/w/o exp★ Start ASAP Call 9280996 Direct Hiring Lk Eugene

★OFC STAFF START ASAP!★ 18-45 w/ w/o exp 6304670 TRIX

HRD STAFF 09168563641 MS. JK

HRDSTF BRAVO 01915968368

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OFC STAF 09192535623 ANDREA

OFC STAFF / 0920-2376718 / JUDE

Ofc Staff 09164380041 Pauline

Ofc Staff 09198241338 Jude

Ofc Staff/HRD START ASAP w/hi salary 7812681 Ms Mary

OFC Staff/HRD Start ASAP w/ Hi Salary 7279971 Mr. Bean

OFCSTF 09193632234 LOU

OFCSTF 5512388 MR. EVAN

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TSHIRT SALE 0916-8329919

SAMAR I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Brgy. Carayman, Calbayog City
Tel. No.: 2093-644, 2093-645 (Telefax)

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date : Nov. 13, 2002

The **SAMAR I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (SAMELCO I)** now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of the following items for its expansion projects funded by the government subsidy fund:

Various electrical hardwares and equipment

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and obtain bidding documents upon payment of non-refundable amount of **One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00)** at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

SAMELCO I Headquarters
Brgy. Carayman, Calbayog City

Interested parties who are not yet accredited must submit/meet the following requirements to be eligible for bidding:

1. company profile;
2. list of clients

For purpose of clarification and to discuss the details of the item due for bidding, a pre-bid conference will be held on **November 19, 2002 at 2:00 PM** at the address above.

Bids must be delivered to the address above on or before **2:00 PM on November 22, 2002** accompanied by bidders bond in cash or cashier's check equivalent to **five percent (5%)** of the bid price. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder or the bidder's representative at the address above at **2:00 PM on November 22, 2002.**

The Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Nov. 16, 17 & 18, 2002)

ZAMIL AIR CONDITIONERS

Our client, Zamil Air Conditioners, one of the biggest AC & Refrigeration manufacturing companies in Saudi Arabia, based in Dammam has opening for the following position:

51 A/C MECHANICS

(24 of the requirements must be Muslim)

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INVITATION TO BID

Notice is hereby given that **OLD X-RAY MACHINE**, etc. will be sold through sealed bids by the Disposal Committee for equipment on an "as-is, where-is" basis on **November 28, 2002** at 10:30 a.m. at the Pacemaker Room, Basement Medical Arts Building.

Bid form, terms and conditions and details of items to be bided out may be obtained from **Mr. ZOILO LUNA** of Property Section.

(Sgd.) **ZYLMA M. SANCHEZ**
Chairman, Disposal
Committee for Equipment

(PDI - Nov. 16, 17 & 18, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
BICOL UNIVERSITY
Legazpi City

CALL FOR APPLICANTS

A. **Position: SUC President IV (SG-30)**

B. **Minimum Qualifications:**
   1. A Filipino citizen
   2. Holder of an earned doctoral degree
   3. Preferably not more than 60 years old at the time of the application
   4. Has at least five (5) years of managerial and administrative experience
   5. Morally upright
   6. Has not been convicted by final judgment of any crime involving moral turpitude
   7. Proven capability in resource generation and networking
   8. Experience or involvement in community service

C. **In addition to these qualifications, interested persons must submit the following clearances, where applicable:**
   1. Ombudsman
   2. Civil Service Commission
   3. National Bureau of Investigation
   4. Regional Trial Court
   5. Provincial/City Prosecutor's Office

   [N.B. While the first two (2) clearances listed above are required only from applicants who are already in government service, all applicants both from government and the private sector shall submit the last three (3)]

D. **Application/Nomination should be accompanied by:**
   1. Detailed Curriculum Vitaé and documentary evidences supportive of qualification
   2. Statement of Vision, Mission and Thrusts for Bicol University
   3. Medical Certificate that include results of drug tests
   4. Result of Neuro-Psychiatric Examination in a sealed envelope administered by Dr. Annaliza del Rosario of Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital (BRTTH), Legazpi City

Interested applicants are requested to submit five (5) sets of formal application, comprehensive resumé and certified supporting documents not later than December 20, 2002 to CHED Commissioner Dr. Ma. Cristina D. Padolina c/o Ms. Jennilyn M. Salubayba at 5th Floor, DAP Bldg., San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City (Tel. No. (02) 638-4870) or to Mr. Renato G. Hingco, Board Secretary, Bicol University, Legazpi City (Tel. No. (052) 820-3741 or FAX No. (052) 481-1401).

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OBITUARIES

Message of Thanks

Dr. DESTY A. MANZO CHUA and Atty. DANTE A. MANZO
children of the late

CATALINA ALCANCIA MANZO

of Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro
who passed away October 27, 2002

wish to express their heartfelt gratitude to all who sympathized with them in their time of bereavement.

We also extend our thanks to the Apostolic Vicariate of CALAPAN for honoring her by establishing the **CATALINA ALCANCIA MANZO Perpetual ENDOWMENT Fund for Poor SEMINARIANS**. To those who have and those who has intention of supporting such charitable endeavor to perpetuate her memory goes our deepest appreciation.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY REQUIEMS FREE OBIT DESIGN

Engineer Feliciano A. Marasigan

of Socorro, Oriental Mindoro
& Novaliches, Quezon City
Born: June 9, 1929
Died: Nov. 15, 2002

His beloved wife Nenita (†); his loving children, Robert Roswell & Ronald; daughters-in-law Ana & Susan; grandchildren Roseanne, Paolo & Patrick, relatives, brothers & sisters, nephews & nieces request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Forest Hill Funeral Parlor, Barangay Gulod, Quirino Highway, Novaliches, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, November 20 at 2:00 p.m. at Holy Cross Memorial Park Novaliches Q.C.

> **"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."** 2 Corinthians 5:8

In loving memory
on the seventh death anniversary of the late

ANTONIO R. DE JOYA

who peacefully passed away on November 19, 1995,
Holy Masses will be offered on Tuesday, November 19, 2002
at the following churches:

SACRED HEART OF JESUS CHAPLAINCY Hillsborough Village, Muntinlupa City	6:00 a.m.
OUR LADY OF MT.CARMEL PARISH Doña Juana Rodriguez Avenue, New Manila, Quezon City	7:00 a.m.
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGUORI PARISH Magallanes Village, Makati City	7:00 a.m.
MALATE CATHOLIC CHURCH 2000 M.H. del Pilar, Malate, Manila	7:00 a.m.
ST. JOSEPH PARISH Aurora Boulevard, Project 3, Quezon City	7:45 a.m.
PARISH OF THE HOLY SACRIFICE University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City	12:00 noon
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City	12:15 noon
SANTO DOMINGO CHURCH Quezon Avenue, Quezon City	12:15 noon
SHRINE OF MARY, QUEEN OF PEACE (OUR LADY OF EDSA) EDSA cor. Ortigas Avenue, Quezon City	12:15 noon
NATIVITY OF OUR LADY PARISH Major Dizon St., Industrial Valley Subd., Marikina City	6:00 p.m.
STA. MARIA DELLA STRADA PARISH Katipunan Road, cor. Pansol St., Quezon City	6:00 p.m.
CHRIST THE KING PARISH Green Meadows Avenue, Quezon City	6:00 p.m.
OUR LADY OF BEAUTIFUL LOVE PARISH Merville Park, Parañaque	6:00 p.m.
OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL PARISH Project 4, Quezon City	6:30 p.m.

His wife, Lina P. de Joya, his children, Lito, Mon and Cecile, his sisters, Remedios and Nenita and his brother, Federico, request relatives, friends and pious readers to join them in prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

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OBITUARIES

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"A rare and great light has gone out, but one that has made all others shine brighter."

Alan R. Fraser

August 16, 1937 — November 16, 2002

of New Zealand and Alabang
founder of SPI Technologies Inc.
(formerly Saztec Philippines, Inc.)
joined his Creator on November 16, 2002
at the age of 65.

His loving wife **Dinah**, children and children-in-law **Simon** and **Cathy**, **Annmarie** and **Terry** and **Hugh**, grandchildren, brothers and sisters, and in-laws, nieces and nephews, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Jose Rizal Chapel, La Funeraria Paz, (inside Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City).

Cremation will be on Thursday, November 21, 2002 at the Manila Memorial Park Crematorium after the 2 p.m. Mass.

The Board of Directors, Officers and Staff of SPI Technologies, Inc.

condole with the family of

Alan R. Fraser

Founder and Former Chairman

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on November 16, 2002.

His body lies in state at Jose Rizal Chapel, La Funeraria Paz, (inside Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City).

Cremation will be on Thursday, November 21, 2002 at the Manila Memorial Park Crematorium after the 2 p.m. Mass.

We extend our condolences to his family and loved ones and join the pious readers in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."

2 Corinthians 5:4-5

Voluntary Service Overseas, Philippines & SIBAT
would like to take this moment to honor the life of a VSO volunteer, who we tragically lost in the Laoag 585 air crash.

MINH VAN NGUYEN

October 24, 1972 – November 11, 2002

Minh arrived in the Philippines in September 2001, when he began his volunteer service with Sibol ng Agham at Teknolohiya (SIBAT) as a Renewable Resources Engineer. Minh provided technical support to community-based organizations, indigenous people, and his NGO colleagues committed to developing alternative and sustainable energy resources at the community level.

Minh shared his talents, skills and resources with VSOP, SIBAT and Philippine communities. He was regarded not only as a gifted volunteer, but as a friend and even "pinoy" to his counterparts. A humble and quiet natured person, Minh was able to immerse himself in a different culture, language and community with great success.

Minh will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by his friends and colleagues here in the Philippines and abroad.

We also would like to take this opportunity to offer our sincerest condolences for the loss of Minh's parents, who died by his side.

VAN THUAN NGUYEN
October 24, 1946 – November 11, 2002

JULIA MARGARET NGUYEN
June 1, 1948 – November 11, 2002

Please honor and remember them with us.

Ma. Socorro C. Macapagal-Santos

peacefully joined our Creator on Nov. 16, 2002 at the age of 43.

Her beloved son, **Anton Joshua**, with her loved ones, **Andrew** & **Boy**, together with her loving family, **Papang, Mamang, Susie, Sally** & **Paul, Jun** & **Jorja, John** & **Pam**, niece & nephews, relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Premiere I, Guadalupe, Makati.

The schedule of Cremation will be announced later.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT MESSAGE OF THANKS DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS FREE OBIT DESIGN

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3-GHz Intel chip uses new hyper-threading technology

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva and Leo Magno

CHIPMAKER Intel Corp. has introduced a new processor that breaks the 3-Gigahertz barrier, but said the chip's multitasking technology was the main reason behind its improved performance.

"We're ahead in the 3-GHz race but the thing here is hyper-threading," said Ricky Banaag, Intel Microelectronics country manager, at the local launch of the 3.06-GHz Pentium 4.

Hyper-threading technology creates two virtual processors on a single, physical chip. Computer tasks can then run simultaneously on each virtual processor, boosting computer performance by 25 percent, according to Paolo Lopez, Intel Microelectronics business development manager for Philippines and Thailand.

"You would see the benefits of this technology when people do a lot of multitasking work on their computers," Lopez said.

However, the speed boost of hyper-threading would be apparent only when the computer's operating system and individual applications were rewritten to take advantage of the technology.

At the regional launch of the Pentium 4 3.06 GHz processor, actual demos of existing video software with hyper-threading features were shown to churn out as much as 26-percent performance boost, while non-threaded video software showed performance gains of 9 to 22 percent. However, the BIOS switch for hyper-threading must first be turned on for the speed boost to be obtained. This will largely require an entirely new BIOS upgrade. The Pentium 4 3GHz chip will also have bigger thermal cooling requirements, not to mention the new BIOS for hyper-threading and a chipset that utilizes this technology.

"The general expectation is that you will likely need to use a new motherboard based on the thermal requirements, updated BIOS and chipset," admitted Timothy Thraves, Intel desktop platform launch manager, at the regional launch of the 3.06-GHz P4 in Singapore. "If you're going to use a third-party motherboard, you have to ask the individual suppliers to see if they would support hyper-threading."

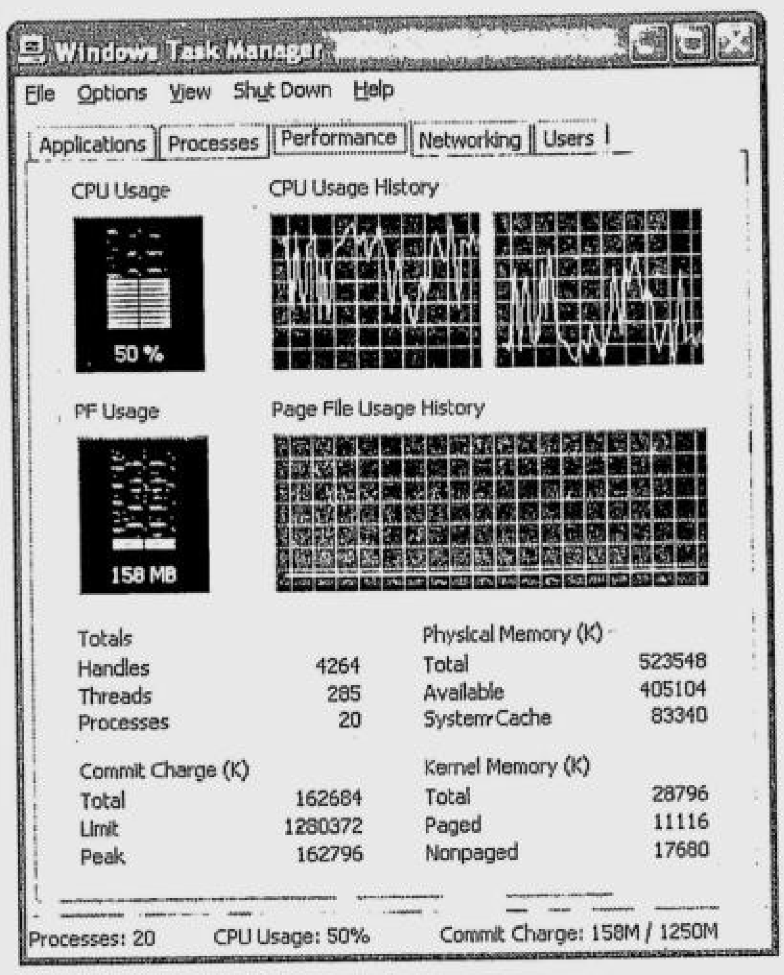
Hyper-threading takes advantage of unused CPU utilization by stacking tasks one on top of the other. Traditional multitasking will see the CPU performing Task A, prior to performing Task B then moving on to Task C and so on and so forth. With hyper-threading, the second thread of two tasks fills up idle CPU utilization, resulting in better resource utilization and "fooling" the operating system to see two logical processors instead of one physical chip.

However, Intel admits on its website that the two virtual processors cannot equal the performance of actual dual-processor systems but do deliver increased performance without the complexity and cost of actual multiprocessor machines.

Amid a slump in desktop computer sales worldwide, Intel believes that demand for the new chip will rise.

"People are naturally attracted to faster chips. But apart from speed, we have hyper-threading," Lopez said.

Banaag said the improved performance brought by hyper-threading to the desktop computer would be compelling enough for people to upgrade to the new chip.


Windows Task Manager
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Applications Processes Performance Networking Users
CPU Usage
CPU Usage History
PF Usage
Page File Usage History

```
CPU Usage: 50 %
PF Usage: 158 MB

Totals                      Physical Memory (K)
Handles         4264        Total            523548
Threads          285        Available        405104
Processes         20        Systemr Cache     83340

Commit Charge (K)           Kernel Memory (K)
Total         162684        Total             28796
Limit        1280372        Paged             11116
Peak          162796        Nonpaged          17680

Processes: 20     CPU Usage: 50%     Commit Charge: 158M / 1250M
```

THE PENTIUM 4's hyper-threading feature fools the operating system to see two logical processors instead of one physical chip.

Film-based cameras still edge digital counterparts

EVEN if the digital camera is a sought-after gadget in the United States, cameras that use the traditional roll of film remain widely used, according to research firm International Data Corp.

IDC recently conducted a survey of 1,000 consumers which showed that 28 percent of respondents intend to purchase a digital still camera within the next 12 months. However, despite the continuing popularity of digital cameras, more people are still using film-based cameras for photographs that they want to preserve on paper, IDC said.

While US digital camera buyers are price-sensitive, value conscious, trend conscious, fashion conscious and are gadget/technology oriented, they are also likely to capture more images per month on their film cameras than on their digital machines.

According to IDC, 78 billion digital images will be captured and shared with digital cameras and about 25 billion of these images are expected to be printed on paper. However, 77 percent of digital camera owners still use film, and more than 50 percent use film cameras more often than digital ones, IDC said.

While the era of the film-based camera is far from over, IDC expects that there will be a shift in the trend, in as early as 5 years from now, when digital prints will be as easily accessible provided issues such as common standards and compatibility are addressed.

Quadmedia News Agency

Grid computing . . .

From page B23

RAC technology manages processing power by allocating compute cycles across the network of servers, and ensuring that the system continues to run even if some of those servers go down. This, in turn, makes Oracle well-placed for next-generation technologies like grid computing, bearing in mind that the grid is essentially a network of servers being orchestrated by software to function as one cohesive unit.

"Oracle resonates with the grid," says Souder. "We want to promote grid computing but first, we have to make it easy for our customers to use the grid without having to rewrite their applications. Then we take our expertise in data management and bring that to the grid."

While grid computing increases CPU utilization and gives better return on hardware and software investments, the creation of the grid will not be easy. Like any new technology, there are no set rules and standards for the industry to follow. Souder believes grid computing is unstoppable because of the tremendous vendor support for the technology, but in the IT industry, vendors seldom see eye-to-eye when it comes to standards and common methodologies.

"I believe grid computing will fly because a lot of people are talking about it; the sheer mindshare it's getting is tremendous. However, there is no existing model for the grid's data structure and architecture, and this might initially block the use of grid computing," Souder says.

Samsung bets big on digital convergence

KOREAN electronics giant Samsung Electronics is expecting consumers to demand more from technology in the future, a trend that in turn will require technology companies to provide products with technical superiority without compromising product prices.

According to Jong-Yong Yun, vice chair and chief executive officer of Samsung, this is precisely the reason why the company has aggressively moved into emerging markets particularly the wireless and consumer electronics segments, where the competition is stiff and the profits are huge.

"There are new and emerging digital opportunities as consumers demand more technology. The key here is providing technically superior products at affordable prices," the high profile Samsung executive said at the third leg of the company's global digital tour held in Singapore.

JONG-YONG YUN

Yun, who was named "Businessman of the Year" in 1999 by Fortune magazine, said Samsung is addressing this emerging trend, as the company continues to roll out products focusing on wireless and convergence technologies, relatively new markets for Samsung, which in its previous life was a mere manufacturer of products which were sold under other brand names.

Armed with a deep war chest enabling it to undertake research and development at a feverish pace, the company has been aggressively rolling out its wireless and consumer electronics products, while continuing to lead the market in its more "traditional" business strengths.

"Samsung Electronics is leading the digital convergence industry with our advanced products born out of the expertise in digital technologies and core components, and with our continued investment in global marketing," Yun said.

The company is undertaking a marketing blitz, globe-trotting with its "DigitAll Inspiration 2002 Samsung World Tour" which started in New York, followed by a second tour in Beijing, a third in Singapore, and a fourth and the last leg to be held in Paris, France.

While pundits are saying that the consumer electronics market is volatile, Samsung seems unfazed as it peddles its vision of digital convergence, addressing several market segments.

"The future of this digital convergence is created and not to be predicted," Yun said, noting that Samsung will be aiming to play a major role in three key convergent markets namely: home networking, office networking and mobile networking.

Explains Eric Kim, executive vice president of Samsung: "it is Samsung's vision to provide technology that will enable consumers to access information anytime, anywhere in any media, and digital technology will always have an impact in the way we work, play and live."

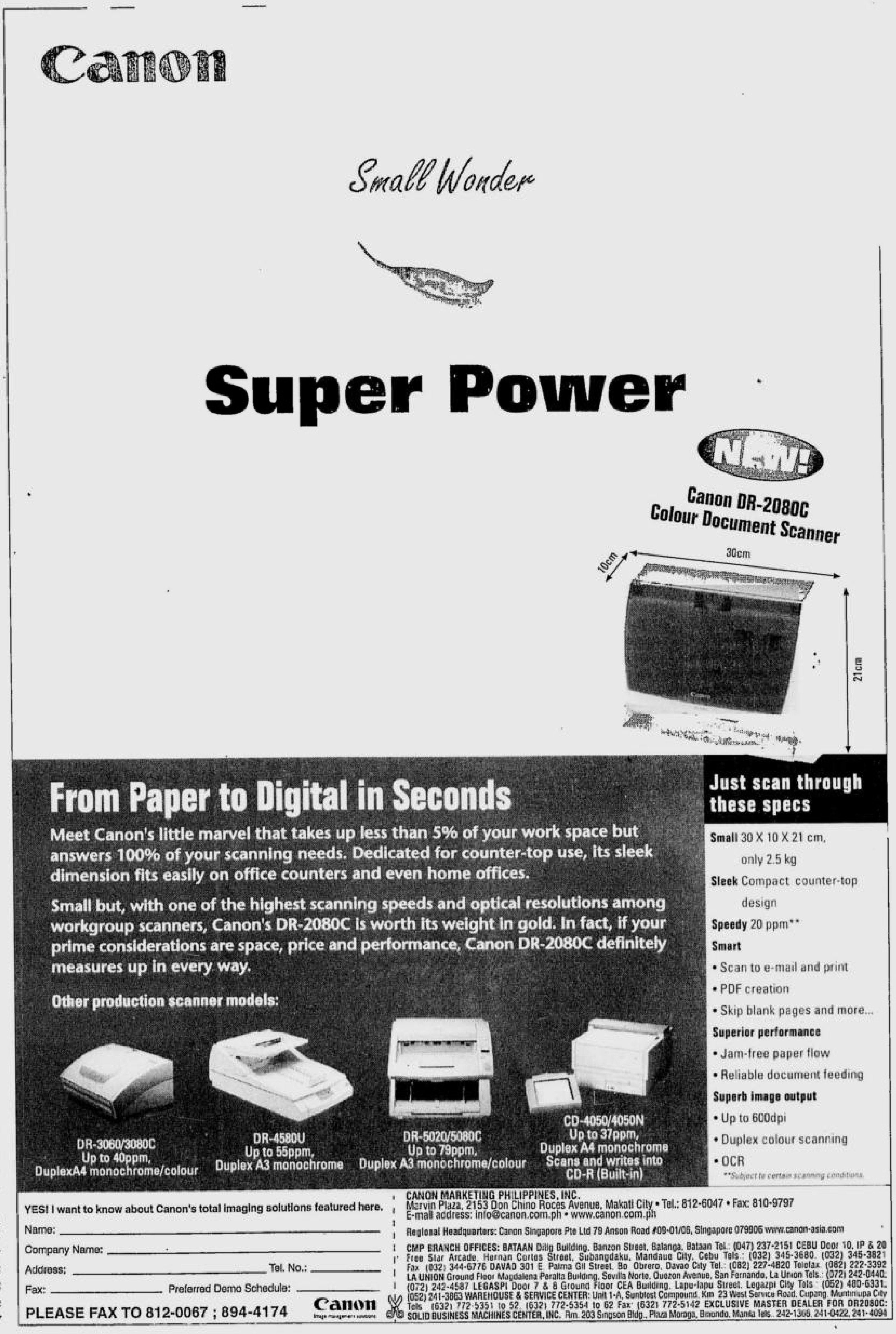
Not that the Korean giant will abandon its traditional core competencies, having held the market leadership in the display/monitor market worldwide and registering a strong showing in the flash memory chip business.

The Korean firm, with its brand valued at $8 billion in 2002 from $6 billion in 2001, is aiming to expand its product portfolio to include mobile phones, digital appliances, and laptop PCs, among others, in both the high- and low-end market segments.

"We are aiming to continue being a company with the most diversified product portfolio, from chips to phones," Kim said.

In the Philippines meanwhile, Sang Youl Eom, president and CEO of Samsung Electronics Philippines, said the local subsidiary will follow the digital vision of its parent company.

"We want every citizen in the world to experience the innovation and comfort that technology will bring to their lives thus strengthening the company's tagline 'Everyone's Invited,'" he said. *Quadmedia News Agency*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Tablet PCs: the next step in mobile computing?

ACTOR Rob Lowe watches as Microsoft group vice president Jeff Raikes demonstrates handwriting recognition on the Tablet PC in New York.

By Gerry Plaza

AFTER COMPUTERS have increasingly gone mobile—with the enhancement of notebook computers and the introduction of powerful personal digital assistants (PDAs) and cellular phones cum PCs - Microsoft Corp. introduced last week breakthrough technology signaling a "new era in mobile computing": the Tablet PC.

While Microsoft is inherently a software company, it has partnered with several hardware manufacturers in realizing this new mainstream pen-based computer, which Microsoft chair Bill Gates claims can only be limited by the user's imagination. Microsoft partners that have rolled out Tablet PC units include Acer, Hewlett-Packard, Fujitsu, Tatung Co., Toshiba America Information Systems Inc. and ViewSonic Corp. In addition, Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. Ltd. has announced its intention to build a Tablet PC under the Panasonic brand.

Allowing users to break free from the traditional keyboard and mouse, the Tablet PC brings to the user a natural interface where data can be encoded into the system through more "humane" techniques, including handwriting recognition, voice commands and fingerprint authentication using a digital pen. As what its name suggests, the new device is a tablet-sized PC resembling some sort of a digital notepad, where the LCD screen encompasses most of the front exterior which users can write on or touch for chosen commands.

But don't worry, keyboards are still supported. These Tablet PCs are available in two primary designs: one features an attached keyboard and can be configured in the traditional laptop "clamshell" mode, and the other uses a variety of detachable keyboard designs in a so-called "slate" form factor. All Tablet PCs are designed to be a user's primary business computer, recognizing input from a keyboard, mouse or pen. Tablet PCs are powered by chips optimized for low power consumption and longer life from companies like Intel Corp., Transmeta Corp. and Via Technologies Inc.

The product is sort of a fusion between the robustness and power of a notebook computer and the personal touch of handheld devices, providing the user with unmatched convenience and flexibility through new killer applications in the areas of electronic publishing, collaboration, personal and business productivity.

The Tablet PC's main input tool is the digital pen, which Microsoft says can act like a mouse when hovering over the screen. Once the pen is used to "write" on screen, it becomes something like a "digital ink pen" that inputs data on the computer similar to the current norm of encoding characters via the keyboard or mouse. But the pen reads more data: 133 samples per second as against 40 on the mouse.

According to reports, users are not still receptive to ditching the keyboard as of yet. Slow acceptance of handwritten input on handheld devices, particularly the Palm Graffiti interface, proves this fact, analysts say. Despite having PDAs with handwriting recognition, users still type away on collapsible keyboards that are acquired as not-so-inexpensive add-ons.

But the key factor in determining the Tablet PC's success is in the applications. Microsoft has shipped its entire Office XP package onto the Tablet PC, allowing users to incorporate the comfort of handwriting into everyday tasks such as creating e-mail, annotating word documents and marking up PowerPoint presentations.

Microsoft also announced the availability of Microsoft Reader on the Tablet PC, allowing users to download e-Book titles for users to read on the fly, making the device a powerful electronic reading companion. Popular newspaper publishers can also provide their latest daily issues to subscribers on the Tablet PC—with their latest front-page news appearing on the Tablet PC screen on demand.

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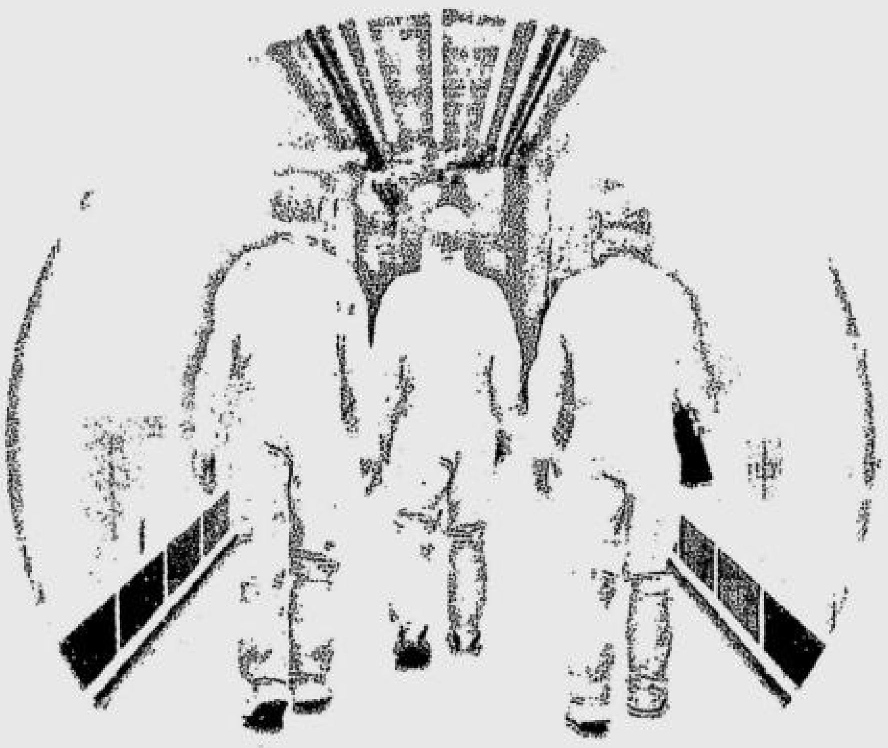

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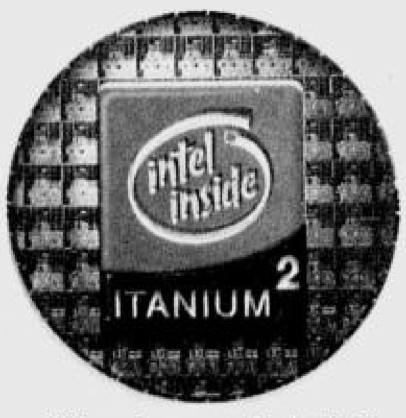

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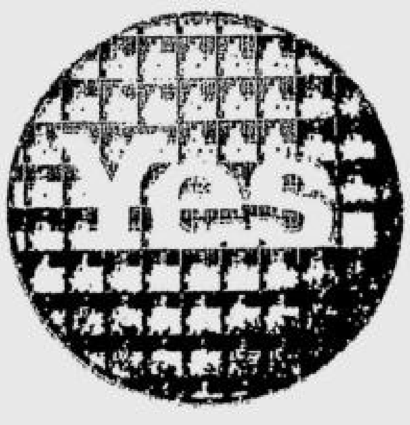

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Grid computing may alter technology landscape

By Leo Magno

GRID technology will become the next generation of computing based on the current economic situation and on technology and market trends, according to an executive from Oracle Corp.

Benny Souder, vice president of distributed database development at Oracle, believes that as the information technology industry continues to adopt necessary changes brought about by economic realities, grid computing will become "unstoppable."

"We will see a tectonic shift in the hardware and software industries as more enterprises utilize grid computing," Souder says. "It's simply the next generation of computing. While the Web revolutionized the way we manage data in terms of presentation of information over the Internet, the grid will become the new method of computation over the Internet."

Grid computing is the method of utilizing processors in different servers in different locations in order to speed up computation cycles by maximizing the use of those processors instead of relying only on those located locally on a single server. It's like sharing the power of many servers all connected over the Internet to speed up the processing of a certain computational task.

This method, Souder says, will become more accepted as companies trim down IT investments and instead maximize the use of their existing computers to share the processing load. Budgetary constraints may lead to less server acquisitions, thus grid computing would become a more viable option.

Economic considerations may also lead to less costly alternatives such as the Linux operating system and blade servers. Linux is a free open source software, while blade servers are essentially complete computers on a board which you can rack together to scale the processing power up. Thus, instead of investing on costly upgrades or acquiring more servers, an organization can instead rack up blades to upgrade the entire system. The more processors you string together, the more computational power you get for use in the grid.

"I think Linux and blades will reinforce each other because they are both cheaper alternatives," Souder says. "You'll see blades in every flavor and shape, and Linux will run on blades, but the question is: Will your applications run on this new environment?"

A compelling reason for belt-tightening companies to adopt blade technology in 2003 is that blades are 80 to 90 percent cheaper per CPU than symmetric multiprocessors. Add to this the announcement of major hardware manufacturers like IBM, Hewlett-Packard, Sun Microsystems and even Apple Computer that they will enter the blade manufacturing market.

Souder likens grid computing to a utility like electricity. In an electric power grid, a person at home ideally should not worry about how many generators there are in his or her neighborhood. All that person has to do is flick the switch without caring where the electrons are coming from.

"The same is true with grid computing," Souder says. "On the client side, a user should not worry about which processor is computing for a task. There can be many servers spread out across the Internet or blades allocated for the computation of that task, and the user would not know and would not care where the processing power is coming from. All that's important is for the task to be done."

This makes the grid a huge virtual computer where the computation is happening all over the Internet. You can add more servers or blades when you need more processing power or take blades from one application and reallocate it to another task.

This is where Oracle comes in. A perennial problem of enterprise software is scalability and reliability. When you add more processors to a system, more often than not the software does not scale up or maximize the additional CPU. Oracle is pushing its real application clustering (RAC) technology as a solution. Aside from scaling up and maximizing the use of each server added to the system, RAC also ensures high availability because the system will keep on running even if one of the CPUs goes down.

GRID/ B21

Oracle collaborates

From page B24

"One of the benefits of Oracle Collaboration Suite lies in its ability to provide tremendous security, availability and cost savings for the enterprise versus today's departmental solutions without requiring any change for the end-user," said Charles Rozwat, executive vice president for Server Technologies at Oracle.

Rozwat said customers can still use their existing mail clients while Collaboration Suite runs in the backend. This can be Microsoft Outlook or any standard thin-client interface or web-based interface.

"This way, Collaboration Suite embraces and enhances Outlook or the user's existing client instead of changing the user interface," Rozwat said.

Beyond e-mail

Collaboration Suite goes beyond e-mail and instant messaging. It consolidates an organization's e-mail and file servers and manages synchronous messages (like chat, online meetings and voice calls where both sender and receiver have to be online at the same time) or asynchronous messages (like e-mail or voice-mail which can be sent and read when and where the users please). It even integrates voice-mail with a telephone system's private branch exchange (PBX) so that you can get voice-mail on your e-mail inbox.

"This is the benefit of having a single database-driven repository for all of your messages," Rozwat said. "With Collaboration Suite, you can get wireless access to your e-mail, voice-mail or corporate directory, and access to your calendar, tasks and address book which you can all get from your mobile phone, personal digital assistant or desktop."

Theoretically, this kind of unified messaging system allows you to get any message from any device, wired or wireless.

The actual demo of Collaboration Suite, however, was not without kinks. At Rozwat's Collaboration Suite demo at OracleWorld—the company's annual user and partner event—the Windows hour glass (displayed by Windows when it is processing a task) went on for minutes while the Oracle executive obviously stalled by lengthening his spiel. However, Collaboration Suite could terminate the task even if Windows hangs, according to Oracle. After this, a phone call was placed to the Collaboration Suite system to demonstrate the retrieval of e-mail via telephone. While the second attempt successfully read the e-mail message sent to Collaboration Suite, the first call produced an error message which saw an automated voice reply system saying: "Sorry, that content has an internal error. That service cannot be accessed."

Still, analysts see a huge promise for Oracle entering the unified messaging, scheduling and collaboration space.

"We're fascinated to see what Oracle can open up with the collaboration industry," said Sara Radicati of the Radicati Group Inc. "We've always known that e-mail will be database-based, and since Oracle knows the database industry, it would be interesting to see how they tie collaboration in with customer relationship management and other applications."

Radicati pointed out that the evolution of messaging is going toward wireless and mobile, and this is a driver which will make Collaboration Suite compelling.

"The fact that Oracle is adding to its offering so quickly with new features and low-cost migration and hosting services makes Collaboration Suite a realistic challenger in the market," she said.

Another problem faced by workgroups within enterprises is getting organized and retrieving the message or information which users need. According to International Data Corp., an enterprise employing 1,000 knowledge workers wastes $48,000 per week, or nearly $2.5 million per year, due to an inability to locate and retrieve information.

Collaboration Suite proposes to solve this not just by unifying the messages handled by an enterprise from different sources and different messaging systems, but also by integrating Oracle Files into the suite. Collaboration Suite has what Oracle calls a "federated search" in which a search query is made across a number of applications (be it a word-processed file, a presentation or spreadsheet file), making it easy to search for files even beyond the traditional file space.

Grabbing customers

Oracle also hopes to snatch customers away from Microsoft as they migrate from Exchange 5.5 to Exchange 2000.

According to Ferris Research, the typical cost for customers to migrate from Microsoft Exchange 5.5 to Exchange 2000 is $100 per mailbox for corporations larger than 1,000 seats. Oracle is offering migration services from Exchange 5.5 to Collaboration Suite for $29 per user.

"You get faster return on investment and lower total cost of ownership while making the backend more secure and more reliable," said Mark Jarvis, Oracle senior vice president and chief marketing officer, emphasizing the virus attacks and security loopholes in Microsoft Exchange and the use of Outlook as an unwitting virus medium. "I've never seen this much interest in any newly introduced Oracle product."

Jarvis said Collaboration Suite has a bigger opportunity than the 200,000 user base of Oracle's database platform and the 15,000 user base of Applications Server, even as he admits the total revenue contribution of the new product segment won't be significant in the next 18 months.

In short, Oracle hopes to pound Microsoft through Collaboration Suite's more secure and stable messaging service and Lotus with more integrated workgroup and collaboration capabilities. The company is even offering Collaboration Suite as an outsourced service following the ASP (application service provider) model, where the integrated communications system can be deployed from the customer's end or from a third-party data center or from Oracle's own data centers in the United States.

Ellison . . .

From page B24

It was 10 a.m. on a Friday in Auckland, New Zealand where Ellison delivered his speech in front of more than a thousand people, while 8,000 more watched him onscreen in San Francisco.

Ellison was in Auckland in support of Oracle BMW Racing, a competitor in the America's Cup yacht race. The team has so far won nine out of nine races, sailing through to the semifinals. Ellison is an avid seafarer, and says he would have wanted to be both in San Francisco and in Auckland at the same time.

However, when asked by a journalist via satellite why he chose to be in New Zealand instead of attending a global conference of the company he co-founded and helped create to become the second biggest software company in the world, Ellison decided to sidestep the issue. As in some of the questions thrown at him during the press interview via satellite, Ellison did not give a direct answer.

The outspoken executive instead talked about what he thought were the three serious problems of the information technology industry at the dawn of the information age.

First, Ellison said, there's data fragmentation. In a world where a tremendous amount of information is born digital, it's getting harder to find data located in ever-expanding networks and virtual storage space which span across the globe.

"If some hacker were to get inside a network, the data he'd find there would be so fragmented that he wouldn't find what he was looking for in the first place," said Ellison. "He'd be as bewildered as your senior management."

Second, there is a lack of software integration in the midst of hundreds of packaged software applications being purchased today.

"There are just so many products out there and you have bought too many of them," Ellison said. "There are too many parts to assemble, and these never came with instructions. Worse, these components were never really designed to work together."

Third is the problem of incomplete automation. Ellison said large organizations have purchased customer relationship management (CRM), enterprise resource planning (ERP) and similar software packages which are essentially incomplete.

"You bought those systems, hired systems integrators, customized the applications according to your needs and basically finished the software for us," he said. "We've been selling you incomplete automation."

These, according to Ellison, are the problems which are blocking the industry's migration to the information age.

And Oracle's solutions to the problem?

"You take all those itty-bitty components, take all the middleware, put them together and sell them as one suite," Ellison said. "This way, you minimize software integration costs."

Oracle is doing just that. Placing Oracle's software in their respective product lines is keeping Ellison busy.

That and his yacht. *Leo Magno*

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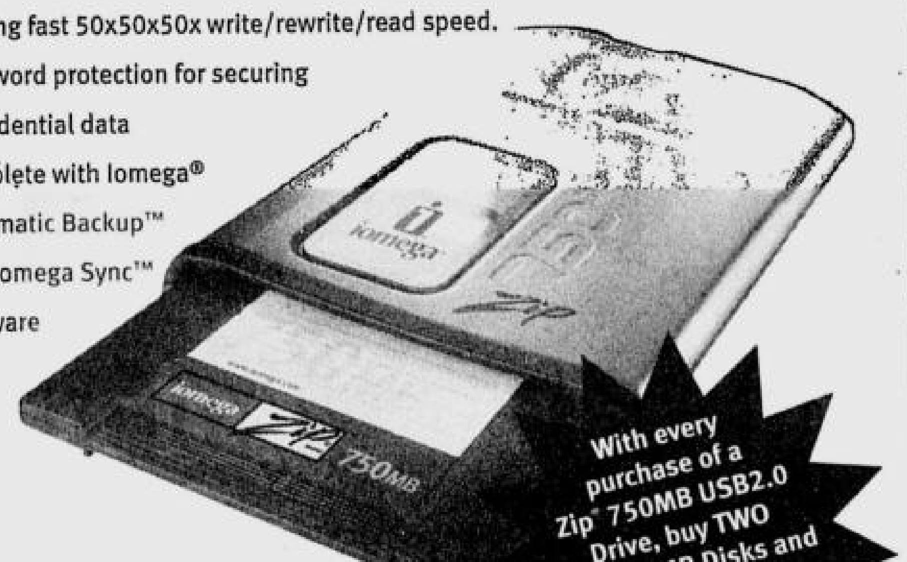

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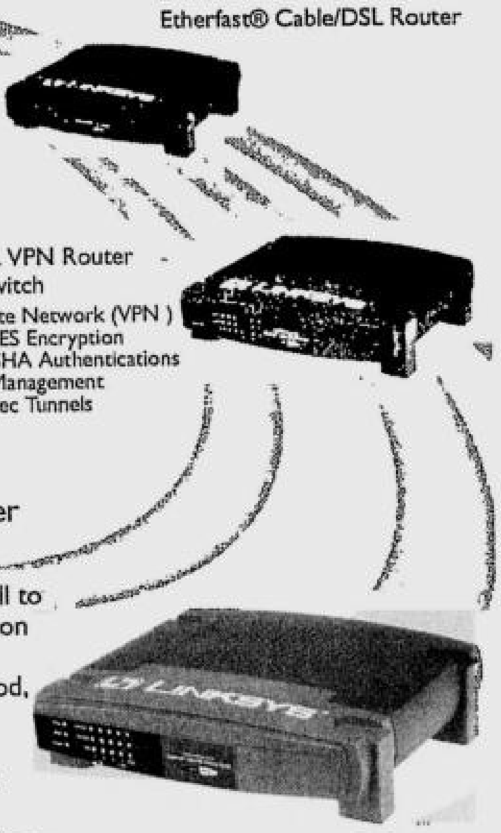

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Editor **Leo Magno**

Oracle collaborates

New suite enters multi-billion collaboration, messaging market dominated by Microsoft, Lotus

By Leo Magno

AT THE RECENTLY concluded OracleWorld in San Francisco, Oracle Corp. made its bid to compete with arch-nemesis Microsoft Corp. and IBM Lotus Software in the multibillion-dollar collaboration and unified messaging industry.

With Oracle Collaboration Suite Release 2, Oracle has formalized a fourth distinct product group in its business, following its core database offering, application server and e-business suite. It also joins Microsoft and Lotus in the bid to tap an expanding market of businesses that need to organize the way they exchange messages, schedule tasks and share files across a networked enterprise.

Collaboration Suite competes with Microsoft's Exchange and several of IBM Lotus' products with the extended capability of real-time communications, online meetings and enhanced security.

ORACLE/ B23

Ellison goes sailing, skips OracleWorld

[illegible] touted [illegible] a fitting, high-tech way to deliver a keynote at a high-tech event. But when Larry Ellison—flamboyant chair and CEO of Oracle Corp.—was asked why he was delivering his speech via satellite instead of in person, he did not directly answer the question.

The time was 1 p.m., Thursday, in San Francisco where the annual Oracle technology event was being held. But for the first time in the seven-year history of OracleWorld, Ellison delivered his keynote via teleconference.

ELLISON/ B23

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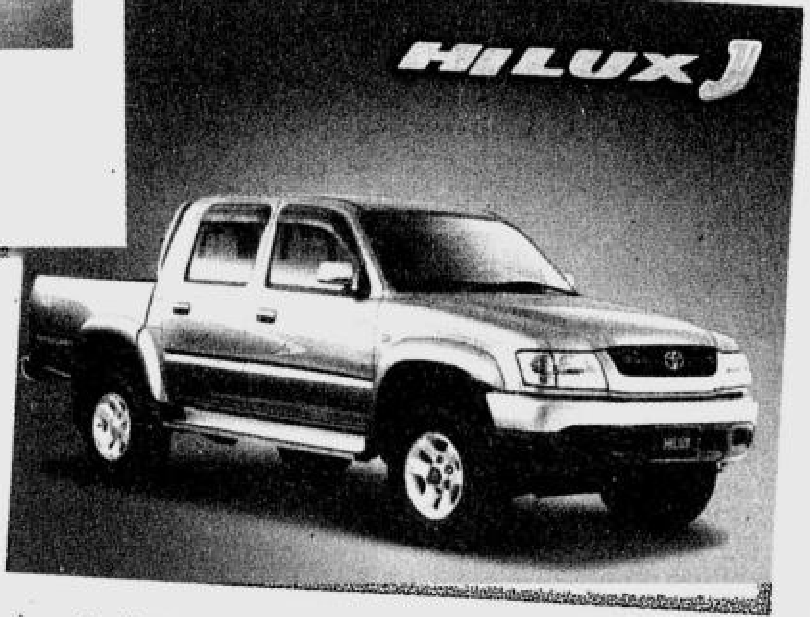

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COMBO PLAN

15%	154.700	90.075	61.968	49.155	35.164	28.374	24.524
20%	214.600	84,227	58.030	45.980	32.587	26,187	22,552
30%	334.400	73,477	50.624	40,114	28.430	22.846	19,674
40%	454.200	62,726	43,217	34.247	24,272	19.505	16,795
50%	574,000	51,976	35,810	28,381	20,114	16,164	13,917

HIACE GRANDIA SRP: 1 113.000

LOW DOWNPAYMENT scheme

15%	121.950	85.344	58,714	46,555	33.304	26.873	23.236
20%	177.600	79.902	55,051	43,601	30.901	24,832	21.394
30%	288.900	69.914	48.169	38.151	27,038	21.728	18.720
40%	400.200	59.927	41.288	32.701	23.176	18.624	16.046
50%	511,500	49.939	34,407	27,251	19,313	15,520	13,371

LOW MONTHLY AMORTIZATION scheme

15%	166.950	81.324	55.949	44.405	31.766	25.632	22.142
20%	222.000	75.904	52.296	41.402	29.385	23.614	20.324
30%	333.900	65.916	45.415	36,012	25.522	20.510	17.650
40%	445.200	55.928	38.533	30.501	21.660	17.406	14.975
50%	556,500	45,941	31,652	25,113	17,797	14,302	12,301

COMBO PLAN

15%	141.950	83.567	57.485	45.600	32.620	26.321	22.750
20%	197.600	78.125	53.826	42.650	30.227	24.290	20.919
30%	308.900	68.137	46.945	37.200	26.365	21.186	18.244
40%	420.200	58.150	40.064	31.750	22.502	18.082	15.570
50%	531,500	48,162	33,182	26,300	18,639	14,978	12,896

RAV4 A/T SRP 1.350.000

LOW DOWNPAYMENT scheme

15%	157.500	103.516	71.216	56.469	40.395	32.595	28.184
20%	225.000	96.916	66.773	52.886	37.481	30.120	25.950
30%	360.000	84.802	58.426	46.275	32.796	26.355	22.706
40%	495.000	72.687	50.080	39.664	28.111	22.590	19.463
50%	630.000	60.573	41,733	33,053	23,426	18,825	16,219

LOW MONTHLY AMORTIZATION scheme

15%	202.500	99.497	68.451	54.319	38.857	31.354	27.090
20%	270.000	92.918	64.018	50.746	35.965	28.901	24.880
30%	405.000	80.804	55.672	44.135	31.280	25.136	21.636
40%	540.000	68.689	47.325	37.525	26.595	21.371	18.392
50%	675,000	56,574	38,978	30,914	21,909	17,606	15,148

COMBO PLAN

15%	177.500	101.730	69.987	55.513	39.712	32.044	27.698
20%	245.000	95,139	65.549	51.936	36.807	29.758	25.474
30%	380.000	83.025	57.202	45.324	32.122	25.813	22.231
40%	515.000	70.910	48.855	38.713	27.437	22.048	18.987
50%	650,000	58,796	40,509	32,103	22,752	18,283	15,743

RAV4 M/T SRP: 1.315.000

LOW DOWNPAYMENT scheme

15%	152.250	100.833	69.370	55.005	39.348	31.750	27.453
20%	218.000	94.404	65.042	51,514	36.509	29.339	25.277
30%	349.500	82.603	56,911	45.075	31.946	25.671	22.118
40%	481.000	70.803	48,781	38.636	27.382	22.004	18.598
50%	612.500	59.002	40.651	32.197	22.818	18.337	15.798

LOW MONTHLY AMORTIZATION scheme

15%	197.250	96.813	66.605	52.855	37.810	30.509	26.358
20%	263.000	90.405	62.287	49.375	34.993	28.120	24.207
30%	394.500	78.605	54.157	42.936	30.430	24.453	21.047
40%	526.000	66.805	46.027	36.496	25.866	20.786	17.887
50%	657,500	55,004	37,806	30,067	21,302	12,118	14,728

COMBO PLAN

15%	172.250	99.046	68.141	54.049	38.665	31.198	26.967
20%	238.000	92.627	63.817	50.564	35.836	28.797	24.801
30%	369.500	80.826	55,687	44,124	31,272	25.130	21.642
40%	501.000	69.026	47.557	37.685	26.708	21.463	18.482
50%	632,500	57,225	39,427	31,246	22,145	17,795	15,322

HILUX SR5 SRP: 1.093.000

LOW DOWNPAYMENT scheme

15%	118.950	83.810	57.659	45.719	32.705	26.390	22.819
20%	173.600	78.466	54.061	42.818	30.346	24.386	21.010
30%	282.900	69.658	47.304	37.465	26.553	21.338	18.384
40%	392.200	58.850	40.546	32.113	22.759	18.289	15.757
50%	501.500	49.041	33.788	26,761	18,966	15,241	13,131

LOW MONTHLY AMORTIZATION scheme

15%	163.950	79.791	54.894	43.569	31.167	25.149	21.724
20%	218.600	74.468	51.307	40.676	28.830	23.167	19.939
30%	327.900	64.660	44.549	35.326	25.036	20.119	17.313
40%	437.200	54.852	37.791	29.974	21.243	17.071	14.687
50%	546.500	45,043	31,034	24,622	17,450	14,023	12,061

COMBO PLAN

15%	138.950	82.324	56.430	44.763	32.022	25.838	22.332
20%	193.600	76.689	52.837	41.867	29.672	23.844	20.534
30%	302.900	66.881	46.079	36.515	25.679	20.796	17.908
40%	412.200	57.073	39.322	31.162	22.086	17.748	15.282
50%	521,500	47,264	32,564	25,810	18,292	14,700	12,655

+For areas covered by Toyota Financial Services Promo runs from November 18 to December 30, 2002. Per DTI-NCR Permit No.4680, Series of 2002

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Will SC decision lead to Meralco's collapse?

By Margarita H. Debuque
Contributor

MERALCO'S claim that a refund will lead to bankruptcy and eventually financial turmoil of a national or even regional scale remains to be seen.

Last Friday, the Supreme Court ruled that the country's biggest power distributor should refund billions of pesos of overcharging over several years to its over 3 million consumers.

The possibility that such an outlay will tug at the power company's bottom line is not far-fetched given the already weak financial state of the company and its major stockholders.

However, the worst case, which is an alleged bankruptcy of Meralco and a possible jacking up of risk premiums on the country's loans, given the huge amount of state-guaranteed loans, may be a bit of an overstatement.

After all, payment of the amount involved can always be structured in such a way as to prevent a collapse in the event that the Supreme Court deems that the money rightfully belongs to the consumers.

Supposing that Meralco's threats were grossly exaggerated, however, any move to put money back into the pockets of consumers rather than let these funds be used to prop up a less than transparent institution can do more good than harm given the listless state of the economy.

> Private consumption has always been a strong engine of economic growth in the country

A refund of at least P11.3 billion can give consumers in the National Capital Region some extra P3,500 each.

The amount is not small and may even equate to a full month's salary for some.

The higher refund figure of P28.15 billion reported would result in a refund of P9,080 to each of the NCR consumer.

Private consumption has always been a strong engine of economic growth in the country.

In the past year, with the country's biggest trade partners also mired in their own economic troubles, private consumption spending has served as an extremely important stimulus to growth.

Over the past few years, the contribution of private consumption expenditures to national economic growth has ranged from 25 to 75 percent.

During the second quarter of this year, its share of output growth amounted to about 70 percent.

It must be noted however that low to middle-class households typically spend more from any income windfall compared with their richer counterparts.

MERALCO
IBALIK ANG P10.8 Billion

MERALCO claims that a refund will lead to its bankruptcy.

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DHL WORLDWIDE EXPRESS
THE PULSE OF BUSINESS

Preventing bribery, fraud and dysfunctional procurement

MAPping THE FUTURE

By Manuel A. Alcuaz Jr.

WE are all aware of the existence of corruption in government procurement. Unfortunately, bribery and fraud which result in dysfunctional procurement have crept into the private sector. We see it in coops, membership clubs, and business firms. Perhaps in your own organization!

Contrary to popular opinion, we cannot assume honesty simply because a person is rich. Some have become rich through dishonest practices including taking bribes.

It is the objective of this article to give stockholders, members, managers and you simple tips on how to prevent and detect bribery, fraud and bias to avoid dysfunctional procurement.

We define dysfunctional procurement to include: buying inferior products, services, and/or systems; buying what is not needed or more than required; failing to consider better alternatives; and biasing the process to favor a technology and/or a vendor with a less cost-effective solution.

Key questions

In the process of procurement, we need to answer a few fundamental questions such as Why?, What?, When?, Who?, How?, and Done?

There is a sequence in which these questions should be answered. If in your organization Who? is given priority, you should suspect the existence of bias or bribery. And if you don't take corrective action, your procurement will be dysfunctional.

First question you should consider in anything you do is Why? What are your objectives? This is particularly important in procurement. Start with a definition of needs and requirements. These should be aligned with organizational objectives and be prioritized.

Get inputs from frontline users, middle and top management, customers and vendors. By building a strong case for Why?, one avoids buying products, services, and/or systems that are not needed.

The next question you should answer is What? What do you need to meet your objectives, needs, and requirements? There is a need to seek expertise, wild ideas and divergent views. That is why committees are organized to review major procurement projects. If one person or a small group decides to carry the ball alone excluding others, alarm bells should ring. Watch out, there may be bribery taking place! If a committee was organized and it never met, I won't blame you if you get suspicious.

Radical alternatives

It is important to consider radical alternatives. Perhaps one should not always assume that improvements mean modernization and computerization. The best solution may require common sense and very low tech.

A good example is the Comelec VRIS (Voter Registration and Identification System) which could cost us P6.5 billion!

If one goes back to the fundamental objective of Comelec, one could simply state it as "one citizen one vote."

It is ironic that the computer industry is proposing to the Comelec a no computer solution, while some people are pushing for the P6.5-billion highly computerized VRIS project. Why? Just do some simple arithmetic. What is one percent of P6.5 billion? P65 million. That is a lot of money.

When a project that is too expensive compared with other alternatives and is pushed hard, one should investigate the existence of bribery.

The Comelec example also illustrates why Who? should not be prematurely considered.

Answer What? first to determine whether to talk to IT and ID card vendors or ink suppliers.

Terms of reference

Before you move on to answering WHO (i.e. selecting a supplier or suppliers), you must clearly define What you want.

At the Manila Polo Club it was found that in one of the bids, the bidders' quotations varied by 700 percent. This might be blamed on some stupid bidders. But it is most likely that specifications (the TOR) were not precise and clear enough.

In a situation like this, an award to the lowest bidder may not be a guarantee that bribery is not taking place. Insiders may inform a preferred bidder (the one who is giving the bribe) that certain unclear specifications will be waived. Other bidders have to assume that they must meet all specifications and therefore end up bidding higher.

In addition to specifying What in detail in the TOR, it is also useful to include the objectives (Why).

With clear TOR, honest vendors will be able to design and propose a better solution.

If the TOR are unclear or there are no TOR, you can conclude one of several things: the person or committee in charge of procurement is incompetent, not exercising due diligence, and/or biased or bribed.

The timing of a project may be critical and the pace of the procurement process and choice of vendors may depend on being able to meet certain critical schedules. However, in the case of major computerization projects, it does not take brilliance to realize that an organization cannot computerize everything at the same time. This calls for prioritization of needs and phasing of acquisition and implementation.

Phasing is also important for large contracts to determine if the chosen vendor can deliver or is only good at making promises. When the project proponent insists on contracting and paying the vendor up front for everything, there is a possibility that there is bribery involved and the ones receiving the bribe want their money Asap.

The first step in selecting a vendor and solution is to define objective evaluation criteria which are aligned to your organization and project objectives, problems, needs, and requirements.

These criteria should be aligned with the TOR and should be based on inputs of users, managers, and consultants if any.

The use of subjective criteria such as "Mercedes Benz," "foreign," "leading vendor" should give you warning signs that your procurement may end up too expensive, even if no bribery takes place.

The use of subjective criteria is an indication that the person or committee in charge of procurement does not have expertise to do the job, does not exercise due diligence and invest time to do the work, and/or is biased for a given vendor.

Evaluation

In order to make a good choice, it is important to consider various vendors and have an evaluation committee including top management, managers, users and possibly a consultant.

In order to find a good solution, it is important to search for alternatives. Look for vendors who have applications that you need. Consider vendors with proven applications and also those with new applications.

If one only considers long established applications, it might be like selecting an old punch drunk boxer instead of the young future champion.

If there is no evaluation committee, and only one man insists in making the selection, that is a definite signal of bias and possible bribery.

If the evaluation committee is proactive, it may invite too many bidders. It should probably evaluate the proposals and make a shortlist based on fit between your requirements and the proposed solution, between your budget and the bid price.

Have key decision-makers, users and technical people attend and evaluate the proposals, presentations and demos. Have them score vendors and solutions using the previously defined criteria.

If your person or committee in charge of procurement fails to get good terms, does not get any discounts, signs the contract without proper authorization—bong! bong! bong! By now, you should know.

Unrealistic price differences

Mactan is quite a distance from most Cebu City hotels but the airport taxis only charge P195.

In Manila, airport taxis take advantage of passengers. At Terminal 2, they charge P350 to go to my place in Pioneer Street in Mandaluyong. Why should it cost P700 from Naia to Pioneer Street?

How come Cebu has more reasonable rates while Terminal 2 and NAIA have unreasonable prices for a much shorter distance?

Passengers are literally being held up, because the taxi fare for the same distance is only P120! Are the operators making a killing? Did someone get bribed? (*The author is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines and President of Systems Sciences Consult, Inc. Feedback at <mapsec @globenet.com.ph>*).

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Big business least trusted institution–survey

GENEVA—Big business ranks as the least-trusted institution in the world alongside national parliaments, according to an international public opinion poll released by the World Economic Forum (WEF) on Friday.

About 52 percent of the 36,000 people questioned in 47 countries said they had little or no trust in large national companies, while 48 percent distrusted multinational firms, the poll found.

WEF noted a "significant" drop in trust in corporations in North America and Europe since the scandal about misleading accounts at US energy group broke.

Fifty-one percent of those polled distrusted their parliaments, but elected officials had greater credibility in Europe, North America and parts of Asia.

The survey measured levels of trust in the ability of each institution to act in the best interest of society.

It revealed that people have as much faith in trade unions and the media as in their governments, with about 47 to 50 percent of those polled saying they had some or a lot of trust in those institutions.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) achieved a middle ranking, summoning little or no trust among 39 percent of respondents, and trust with 44 percent.

A clear majority of people trust nongovernment organizations (NGOs), the United Nations, their health and education systems, police forces and the Army.

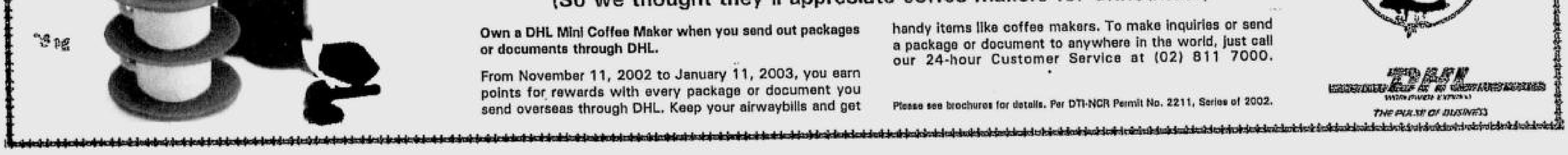
WEF said the highest trust score attributed to Armed Forces (69 percent) was boosted by very high ratings given by people in countries on heightened alert against terror attacks, including India, Israel, Pakistan and the United States.

"Unless traditional institutions regenerate public trust, people will continue to search for new ways forward," Doug Miller, of Environics International, one of the pollsters behind the survey, commented.

"The real cost of inaction may be greater system instability and a growing mandate for NGOs and new political parties," he added.

The survey was conducted by Gallup International. **AFP**

TRUST in big business dropped following accounting scandals.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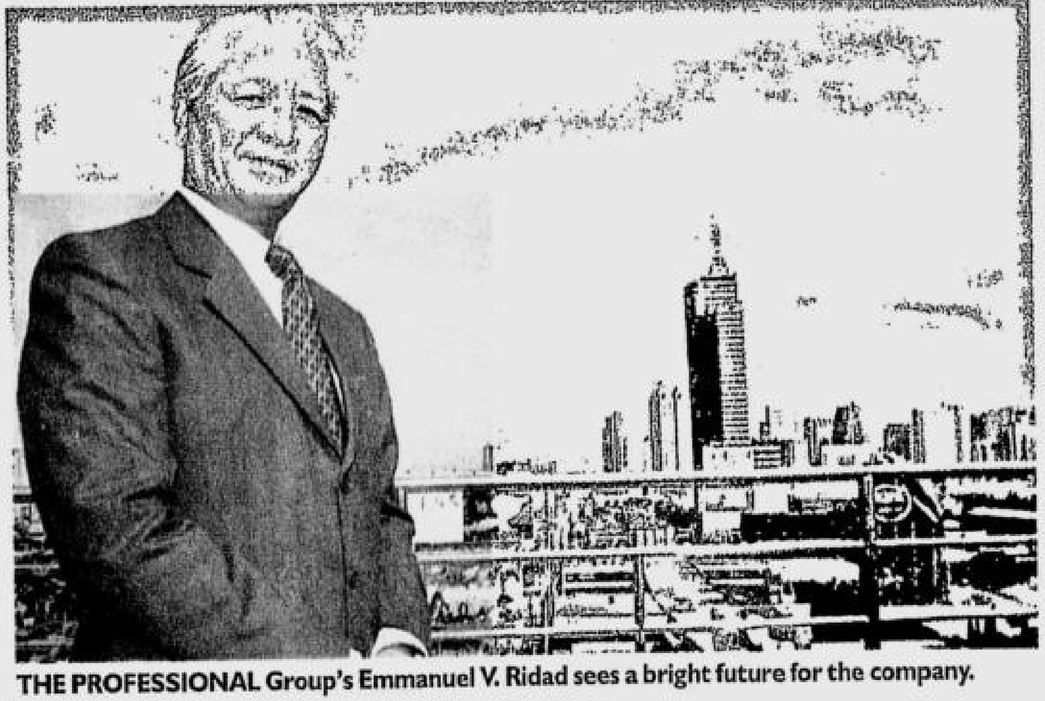

THE PROFESSIONAL Group's Emmanuel V. Ridad sees a bright future for the company.

Another side of pre-need: When 'tsismis' pays

THE SPATE of negative publicity regarding the pre-need industry, triggered by shocking allegations about the leading company, rattled not just its corporate members and clients, but the whole educational sector as well.

This is because pre-need educational plans have answered parents' needs that government has failed to address. It is an industry that has enabled a sizeable bulk of sons and daughters to graduate from grade school, high school and college despite escalating prices of tuition. As in any industry, there are suspect lemons. And this is unfortunate because, as in banking, hard-earned life savings, especially of ordinary people, are affected.

Fortunately, perhaps by strength of numbers of legitimate and diligent members, including the rehabilitation of perceived errant companies, plus fiscal steps taken by the SEC, the pre-need industry is alive and, it seems, well on the way to well.

Aside from this, there is a non-educational pre-need product and marketing venture that continues to capture a growing market share. Like its educational counterpart, the pre-need pension plan also fills a gap where the government's provision has been inadequate.

In 1976, the very first pre-need pension plan company in the country, Professional Pension Plans of The Professional Group (TPG Corp.) was established.

According to its chair Francisco Colayco, its mission "has been to provide Pre-Need and At-Need Services in Health, Education, Life and Pension to the broadest depth of the Filipino society. TPG is committed to HELP Filipinos attain personal achievement through financial independence".

In early 2001, TPG started cooperative marketing or "tsismis" marketing as TPG calls it. With earnings still growing among marketers, and both the money and the product hot in their hands, we wonder how, especially during these difficult times.

Here are some of the answers from TPG's new president Emmanuel V. Ridad.

Q.: What is cooperative marketing?

A.: Simply put, it is one of many possible strategies for product distribution that a company may employ. It is not new as a business concept. It has its roots in the logic that, for some products or companies, communicating and selling to the target market is better achieved through a user sales force rather than through mass media (TV, radio, print advertising.)

It is also called multilevel marketing (MLM) because the money that would have been allocated for advertising and promotions is instead paid out to a multiple level of distribution agents according to a commission schedule.

Q.: What is pyramiding?

A.: Pyramiding is the term commonly used to describe a Ponzi scheme. Ponzi is the name of the person who devised a simple scheme to defraud investors of their hard-earned savings. In this scheme, an inventor is lured into investing his money into some suspiciously contrived investment scheme. In exchange, the investor is promised some unreasonably large return on his investment.

However, his return on his investment is contingent on others being recruited into the investment scheme. As others join the scheme, the money that is put in by new members is used to pay off the promised returns of those members who joined be-

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User Testimonial	6:30 pm
Q & A	7:30 pm

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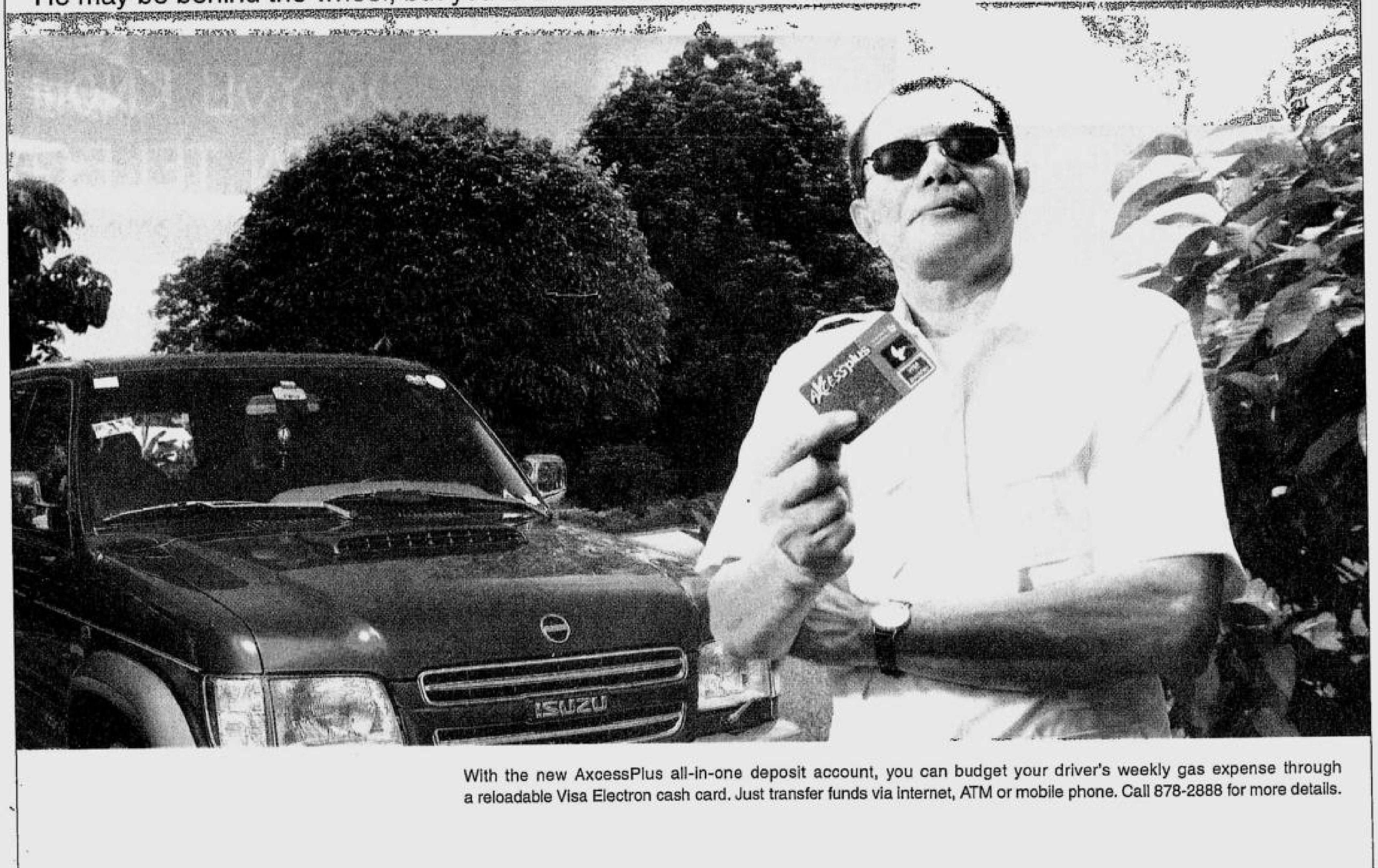

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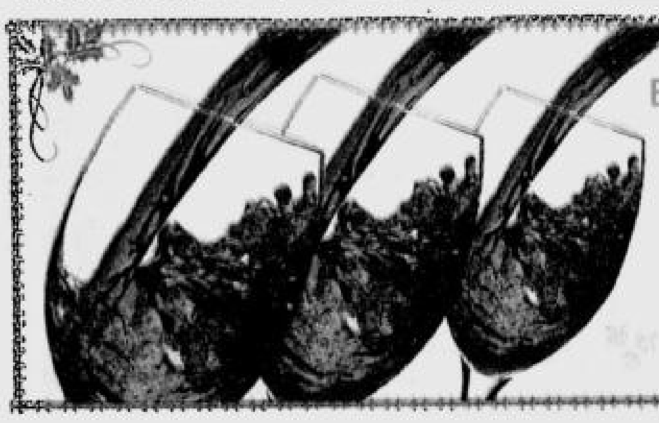

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BUSINESSMonday INQUIRER

With ₱1.5B you can build a luxury hotel or 22 'micro' ones

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

DEL ROSARIO and Vergara

WITH P1.5 billion, Microtel Inns and Suites (Pilipinas) Inc. president and CEO Jose Mari del Rosario says he could build another high-rise hotel in Makati City's overcrowded five-star lodges.

But the 17-year veteran of the hotel and hospitality industry would rather use the money to put up 22 more Microtel Hotels (a standard 60-room hotel costs P70 million each to build) all over the country in the next seven years to serve value-conscious businessmen and local tourists looking for a good night's sleep without getting a big hole in their pockets.

"We've found a segment in the lodging industry that has steady growth and big room for expansion. Most players have ignored this niche as seen from the decrepit facilities outside urban and tourist centers. We're only too happy to fill up this need," he says.

Microtel Philippines expects to generate the P1.5 billion funds for its expansion from potential franchisers with either land or cash that share their bullishness in the no-frills hotel concept.

Microtel will handle the management and staffing of the hotels (through Paramount Property Management Co.) including support services (through iClean Philippines Inc.) Paramount and iClean are part of the Phinma group.

Microtel has built a hotel each year since its inception in 1998—Calapan, Oriental Mindoro; Hacienda Luisita, Tarlac; First Philippine Industrial Park in Sto. Tomas, Batangas; and Eagle Ridge in General Trias, Cavite.

Their partners in these ventures include the Lopez group, the Aquino family, former Agriculture Secretary Carlos Dominguez and the the Mandanas family of Batangas. The Hernandez family will open a Microtel near the Baguio terminal of its bus line, Victory Liner. It has already forged memorandum of agreements with franchisees in Canlubang and Sta. Rosa Laguna; and Cabanatuan, Nueva, Ecija.

"If you're thinking of putting up a hotel in Cebu, Bacolod, Davao, Subic and Clark, don't come to us. Those markets are saturated. We're looking for properties that are in a quiet and peaceful neighborhood and a 30-minute ride away from urban centers or bus routes," Del Rosario says.

Microtel Philippines executive vice president and COO Nilo M. Vergara IV said the group felt that it was time to step on the gas for its expansion program despite the bleak outlook for the hotel industry.

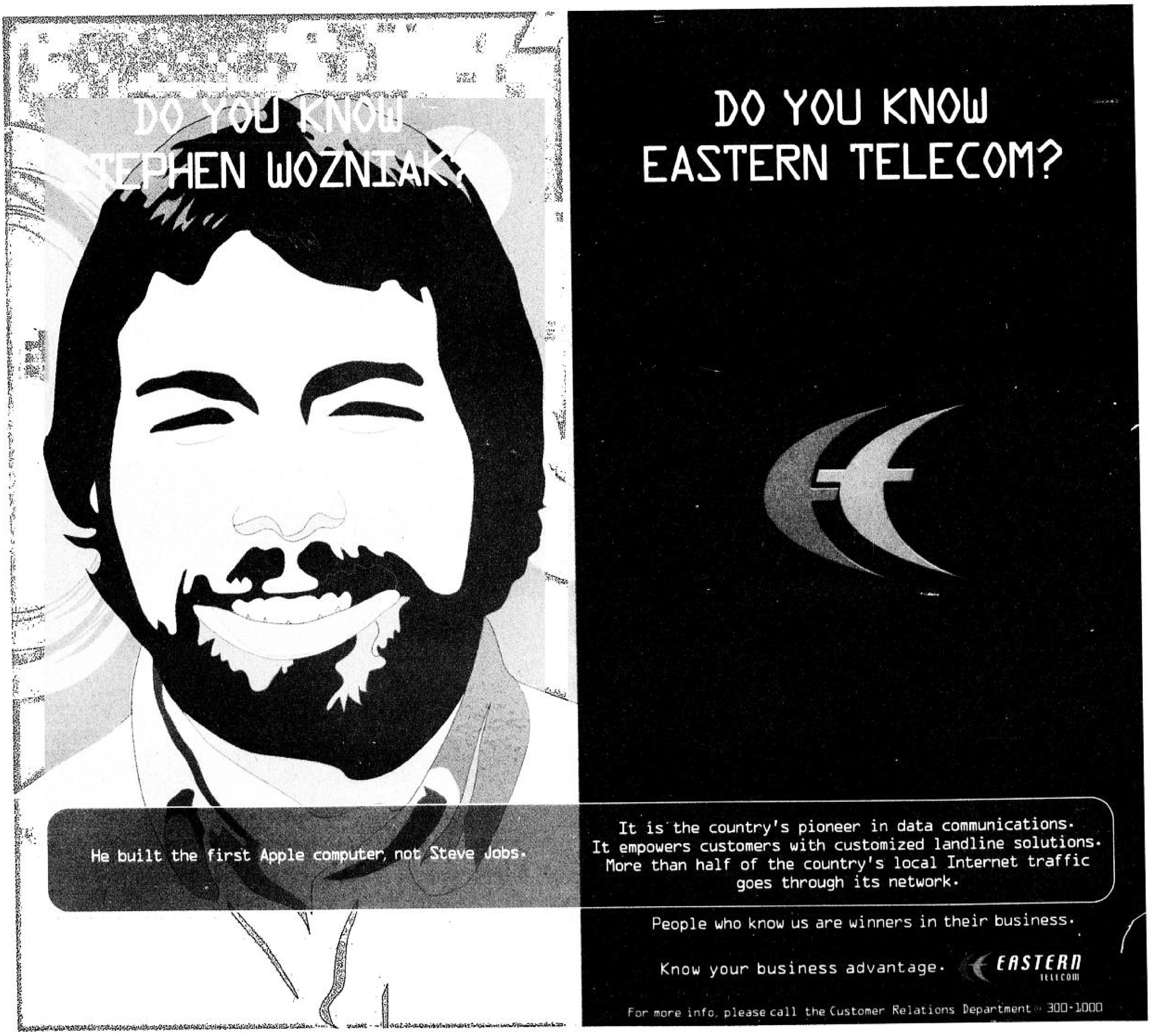
Vergara, who has a vast experience in managing resorts, clubs, restaurants and hotels, says Microtel hotels have performed well in the past four years with an average occupancy rate of 45 percent or more than double the break-even rate of 20 percent.

"An investor can get his money back in six years or earlier depending on occupancy levels," Vergara says. "We've kept the initial cash outlay for construction as low as possible to ensure that our investors earn profits even with a low turnover."

"When we decided to go into the business in 1997, we looked at all the budget hotel franchises in the US and we found Microtel to have the most adaptable concept with the cheapest to build facilities," Vergara said. The New York-based Microtel is a leading franchiser of budget hotels including Hawthorn Suites and Best Inn & Suites.

Microtel adopted the Microtel building design and room standards while changing some of the specifications to suit the country's tropical weather (rooms are not carpeted).

While Microtel is by no means the first to introduce the no frills hotel concept in the Philippines, it has so far been the most successful in implementing this idea. "It's one thing to have a good idea, it's another to execute it well," Del Rosario said.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Micro-finance helps poor fulfill business dreams

From page C7

Gina Eman has a convenience store, rents out two playstation units, has a passenger multicab and rents out a house. She also has several small ventures that help bring in a little extra income. She sells jewelry, cosmetics and clothes, raises livestock and grows palay.

Gina is a teacher by profession but she was discouraged when she was asked to teach in a far-flung barangay. Gina, thus, made peanut butter and chocolate tablets instead to sell to market vendors.

She is now on her 11th loan cycle. The income from the various businesses helps make sure that she is able to meet her loan payments on time.

Lucila Cruzada

Pangasinan

Lucila Cruzada makes and retails house clothes like shorts, dusters, blouses and pajamas. She began her business when her husband was taken ill and could no longer work. What began as a buy and sell operation eventually grew into a small clothing manufacturing enterprise.

She used her first loan of P5,000 to buy scrap cloth from garments factories. She opted to make house clothes because they were easier to sell.

Her strategy of low mark-ups for higher volume works for her, growing her single-woman operation into an enterprise that now provides employment to five sewers and four retailers.

Lucy believes in focusing her energies on what she does best, so even her diversification plans revolve around related product lines like cloth slippers.

Tessie Cabalida

Dipolog

Tessie Cabalida deals coco lumber in Dipolog. Before becoming a client of the Tigum loan program of the Rural Bank of Dipolog, Tessie was into the buying and selling of household necessities and provided haircutting and manicure services.

When Tessie learned about the Tigum loan, she borrowed P20,000. She and her husband used the money to buy coconut trees that they cut into standard sizes for sale to the lumberyards.

She says that customer service and pricing are what set her business apart from the competition.

By employing these strategies, Tessie has grown her business.

Fely Barot

Las Piñas

Fely Barot's husband left her and their four children four years ago so she was forced to take on a job as a street sweeper earning P7.50 an hour.

That was the time when she heard about TSPi. Her first loan of P5,000 was used to buy and sell peanut butter. This earned her about P20 per jar or P200 a day.

Her success in this venture emboldened her to bid for the contract the supply cleaning equipment to the municipal government. Her second loan of P6,000 was used to buy brooms and dust pans.

From there, she bought a tricycle and now buys stuffed toys and other house décor and sells them in her community and neighboring areas.

Rosemarie Balderama

Caloocan

Rosemarie manufactures furniture in Caloocan City and earns a decent living. It was not always so.

Rosa, a mother of six, relates that life was very difficult before she went into business. She and her husband could only find odd jobs that did not pay enough to feed their brood.

Their luck changed in 1990 when a neighbor hired Celso to make an embroidery frame for P200. Half of the money was used to put together a TV stand, which brought in enough money to buy wood for another TV stand.

This cycle of making and selling furniture items continued until 1995, when Rosa was offered a microfinance loan of P5,000.

Together, the Balderama couple employs six workers and supplies four furniture stores in Caloocan City. Rosa estimates weekly sales at P20,000 and profit at P7,000.

Juanita Aquino

Valenzuela City

Juanita Aquino started her cotton recycling and glove making businesses in 1991 from a P15,000 loan from the Social Security System.

She initially bought four sewing machines to make cotton gloves but she had to stop production because of lack of demand.

In 1995, with capital from the Opportunity Microfinance Bank, Juaning reopened her business. She has done so well that she now has 11 employees and grosses P10,00 a week.

To help her make her loan payments, she also began retailing vegetables in front of her house, extending credit to loyal customers.

Josephine Alima

Isabela

Josephine Alima owns a mini bakery that is dedicated to making peanut biscuits. She put up the business with her husband in 2000 using a recipe from her brother-in-law who was operating a similar business in Mindanao.

When she got the peanut biscuit recipe, she applied for a P10,000 loan under the individual loan program.

When the Alimas began their business, they had no other help except their four children. They made the biscuits at home and baked them in a nearby bakery. Today, they have 24 employees and a mini-bakery operation.

Their first production volume was only one bag of flour a week. They now consume 5-7 bags a day, producing 625 packs of biscuits.

Another side . . .

From page C0

fore.

The critical feature that makes this scheme fraudulent is that no new money is created. In a real investment instrument, the money invested is used to create new assets from which the promised returns would be sourced. A simple example would be if the invested money were used to set-up a restaurant and the restaurant were to generate profit.

The number of Ponzi investors progresses exponentially. Assuming each investors recruits 2 others, the progression is from 1 to 2 to 4 to 8 to 16 to 32 and so on. This progression resembles a pyramid, hence the term Pyramiding.

Those who join early do manage to realize their promised return. The scheme falls apart inevitably when fewer and fewer new members are recruited. In the end, those who joined most recently or those who comprise the base of the pyramid end up with nothing.

Q.: Is cooperative marketing the same as pyramiding?

A.: Cooperative marketing is not to be confused with pyramiding. They are two different animals. While cooperative marketing is a product distribution system, pyramiding is nothing more than a fraudulent investment scheme.

In legitimate cooperative marketing, a real product with commensurate value is exchanged for the client's money. So that even without the benefit of the referral compensation system, the client receives fair value for his purchase.

In cooperative marketing, there are actually two values—the product and the potential referral income. The true test of a legitimate cooperative-distributed product is if the product can still be sold and bought even without the referral income component.

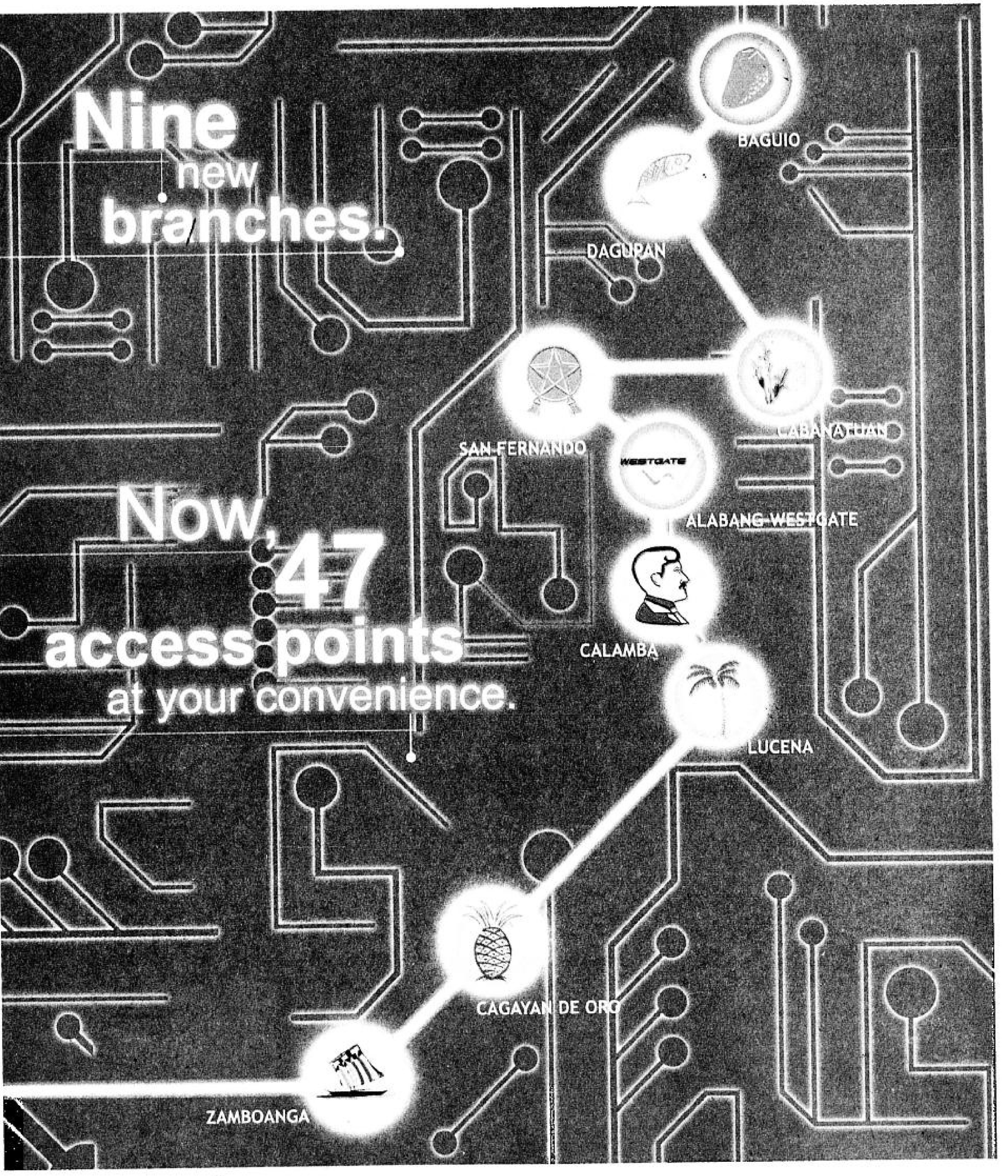
Q: What is your safety net in ensuring that every successful referral will be given the commensurate commission along with the product?

A: In our system, TPG's Pension Plans have been bought and sold for the last 25 years even without the referral income component through traditional selling channels. This shows its value, with or without cooperative marketing.

And because new clients are referred to TPG by existing clients themselves, the company does not incur any agent commission expense. Instead, what is normally allocated for agent commissions is contributed into a cooperative pool of funds which is used to reward clients who have referred other clients. The source of the referral rewards is clear and traceable. Nothing is ever pulled out of thin air.

Q: How may a housewife, student or ordinary person benefit from your "*tsismis*" system?

A: Our cooperative marketing offers a buyer two things: 1. Future Savings, which is what the pension plan provides and 2. Present Income, which the buyer earns upon selling to others. Anyone, housewife or student will surely need these. And this system is not difficult at all. It's a matter of "*tsismis.*" All of us have at one time or the other endorsed a really good movie we've seen to a friend. If that friend of yours went to see that movie because of your endorsement, then you are already good at the basic skill required of a successful marketer. The difference is that this time you will be rewarded for the "*tsismis*" or endorsement.



East West Bank introduces nine new Personalized Banking Centers

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WITH THE wide variety of savings options available in banks today, one can have a hard time looking for the right savings plan that best suits his preference.

Planters Development Bank (Plantersbank), the country's largest private development bank, introduces Plantersbank Premium 5, a five-year term deposit account, fit for those who are looking for a high-interest earning investment. Interest is withdrawable monthly, tax-free, while the principal deposit remains intact after five years.

According to executive vice president and funds management group head Lamberto P. Scarella, "investors can either be risk takers or those who can choose to be on the safe side." He said that given the present state of the economy, risk takers are few yet for those who chose to be on the safe side, Premium 5 would be a good option.

Compared to other regular time deposits, Plantersbank Premium 5 is a full-packed offer that gives you all the best reasons to open an account. Plantersbank Premium 5 offers small investors a competitive investment option because for a low minimum deposit of P30,000, they get a high 9.5-percent fixed interest rate (or 11.875 percent gross interest rate) per annum. "Given the low required minimum deposit, we are able to give small investors the opportunity to earn premium rates that are normally given to larger investors. It is truly a safe investment that offers higher returns", Scarella further adds.

Those in need of funds can also borrow up to 90 percent of the principal deposit. To top it all, Plantersbank Premium 5 offers a free Personal Accident Insurance worth twice the principal deposit up to a maximum of P1 million.

Plantersbank Premium 5 is now available in all Plantersbank branches nationwide. Plantersbank, backed by 40 years of Small Medium Enterprise (SME) banking, makes available to the Filipino entrepreneur the combined expertise of their global partners: The World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Netherlands Development Finance Company (FMO).

For inquiries, contact Plantersbank's Product hotline at (02) 759-2703 or e-mail: corpcomm@plantersbank.com.ph

Philippine Jaycees inducts 2003 officers in Naga City

THE JUNIOR Chamber of the Philippines (JCP) recently inducted its new set of officers during the 54th JCP National Convention held Oct. 10 to 12, hosted by the Naga JCs. No less than 1985 world president Chicos Luciano of QC Capitol JCs inducted incoming national president JCI sen. Michael Allan Ranillo of the Greater Dipag JCs together with his board.

Members of the executive committee are outgoing national president JCI sen. Mabel Villarica-Manuba, national senior executive vice pres. JCI sen. Ivan Franche, national treasurer JCI sen. Ma. Pillar G. Delmo, sec. gen. Ismael P. Penado, gen. legal counsel Randy C. Ceniza, NEVP Area I JC Manny A. Yao Jr., NEVP Area II JC sen. John B. Jimenez, NEVP Area III JC Lamberto D. Doronela, NEVP Area IV JC Lyndon L. Fermo and NEVP Area V JC Jaime Gelloc Jr., Appointed for a second term was executive director Ramfel R. Preclaro.

Elected national vice presidents were JC Zacary Nizon L. Fernando, Northern Luzon, JC Troy Miano, Cagayan Valley, JCI sen. Sherwin Wai Gia, Central Luzon, JC Paul Camina, Metro North, JC Chato de Leon, Metro East, JC Rjay Magno, Metro South, JC Magdalena P. Murillo, STR East, JC Candelaria Calabia, STR West, JC John Manaog, Bicol Region, JC Teresita Tancingco, Eastern Visayas, JC Jeff Calomarde, Central Visayas, JC Rodolfo A. Sarrosa Jr., Western Visayas, JCI sen. Edgardo Gilles, Northern Mindanao, JC Nestor S. Nolasco, Southern Mindanao, JC Oliver T. Ngo, Central Mindanao, and JC Jane Tabucan, Western Mindanao.

Among the thrusts of NP Allan's administration are the computerization of the JCP Secretariat membership records, improvement of funding of the JC National Training Commission, public awareness of the organization, membership increase, and active community involvement of its members.

Sucrose-free formula for healthier infants

EVER wondered why the primary carbohydrate source of breast milk is lactose and not other types of carbohydrates, such as sucrose? The reason is simple – it's what Mother Nature has intended, to benefit newborns and young babies.

Lactose accounts for 40 percent of the total energy content of breast milk and is thus a good source of readily available energy to support the rapid growth and development of infants. Lactose also promotes the health of the gut as it reduces the risk of gut infection and pathogenic diarrhea by promoting the proliferation of lactobacillus and at the same time suppressing the growth of harmful bacteria.

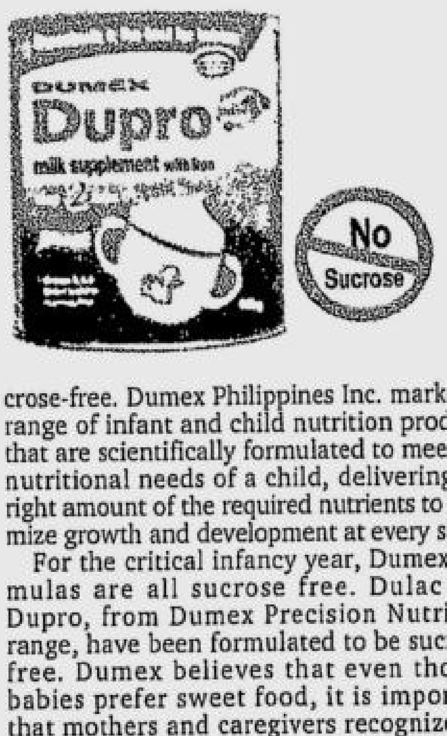
Short chain fatty acids, a byproduct of lactose fermentation, serve as the most important source of energy for cells of the intestinal wall. As a result, the acidic environment of the colon stimulates the absorption of calcium to aid the development of strong bones and teeth.

Breast milk is the gold standard for the development of infant formulas. Breast milk is a good source of lactose (about 70g per liter of milk); it contains only lactose and not sucrose. So, logically, infant and follow-up formulas should also contain lactose as the main source of carbohydrate.

In addition, the sweetness level of formulas with 100-percent lactose is similar to that of breast milk. Infants will likely have no problems alternating between breast milk and a formula containing 100-percent lactose, thus easing supplementation of breast milk if and when the need arises.

Not all formulas in the Philippines are sucrose-free. Dumex Philippines Inc. markets a range of infant and child nutrition products that are scientifically formulated to meet the nutritional needs of a child, delivering the right amount of the required nutrients to optimize growth and development at every stage.

For the critical infancy year, Dumex formulas are all sucrose free. Dulac and Dupro, from Dumex Precision Nutrition range, have been formulated to be sucrose-free. Dumex believes that even though babies prefer sweet food, it is important that mothers and caregivers recognize the possible consequences and choose a formula that is optimal for their development.



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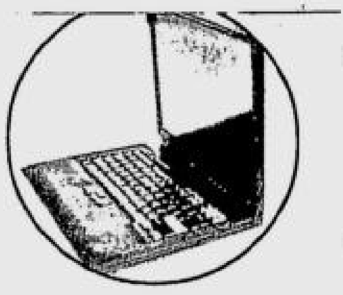

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Micro-finance helps poor …

From page C8

Today, Emma is the proud proprietor of an eatery catering to truck salesmen, drivers and others who ply the Manapla route.

Emilia Montinola

San Carlos City, Negros Occidental

Emilia Montinola is a vegetable wholesaler and retailer whose husband's income as a carpenter was not enough to support the family. Emilia decided it was up to her to augment the family income.

She then took a P7,000 loan from the Rural Bank of Victorias Grameen system to put up a small vegetable stand. She later qualified for individual loans and her loan amount went up to P12,000.

Today, Emilia's vegetable business grosses about P5,000 on regular days and P10,000 on market days.

She also repacks soy sauce, cooking oil, vinegar and ketchup to make them more affordable for her poorer customers.

Virginia Malasan

Pangasinan

Virginia Malasan produces home-made sweets like *panutsa*, sweet tamarind, peanuts and curls.

When she began her business, she only produced 20 pieces of *panutsa* a day. Today, her enterprise produces over 500 pieces of *panutsa* daily.

Virginia says she makes a profit of P4,000 a week. She keeps a list of her expenses so that she can tell how much profit she makes.

Virginia's business sense also benefited her neighbors. She now has 4-6 women from her village helping her produce the sweets.

Virginia's first TSPI loan of P5,000 has long been repaid and she is now on her 11th loan worth P30,000. She never missed a due date.

Victoria Lim

Tandag, Surigao del Sur

Victoria Lim produces and distributes chicharon or crispy macaroni and popper rice. Her 11-year-old business has been helping her put six school-age children through school and support her household. Her husband is also involved in the business, taking care of deliveries and collection.

Victoria purchases raw materials from the public market and sells her products in the nearby municipalities. She now employs four workers and 10 packers. She says her business now brings in P13,000 a month.

Victoria thanks the Rural Bank of Cantilan for helping her grow her enterprise. With the help of the bank's KITA loan program, she has also been able to buy the lot where her shop stands, and a vehicle for making deliveries.

Felicidad Kalalo

Pakil, Laguna

Felicidad Kalalo's peaceful world was shattered in 1994 when she began having marital difficulties. She suddenly found herself the sole breadwinner for her three young boys so she started selling snacks in nearby schools.

In the same year, she found out about Ahon sa Hirap—an NGO that gives small, uncollateralized loans to help women begin businesses. She decided to take the risk and got a loan worth P1,500. With this loan, Fely increased the items she was selling and bought a rolling store, which she parked along busy streets.

In 1997, Fely and her husband got back together and they grew the business stogether. They started a small piggery, bought a tricycle and diversified into the small furniture and handicraft business.

Inspired by the success of the sewing business of another ASHI member, she took out a P35,000 loan, bought two high-speed sewing machines and put up a small sewing shop.

The early success of the business allowed Fely to expand and buy eight more sewing machines.

Ponciana Escuadro

Polomolok, South Cotabato

Ponciana Escuadro has been producing nata de coco since 1995 when Dole Phils. stopped manufacturing nata de coco.

Her initial investment of P7,500 was financed by the sale of a small piece of family property. After passing rigorous tests, Nanay Ching began supplying Dole with 300 kilos of nata de coco a week. Time came when Dole demanded increased production from its workers.

Luckily, Nanay Ching heard about Kabalikat para sa Maunlad na Buhay Inc. and took out an initial loan of P4,000.

When Nanay Ching began producing nata de coco, her output was only 300 to 700 kilos per week. Today, her enterprise produces 4,000 kilos a week and employs 12 workers.

Anita Era

Talim Island, Rizal

Anita Era has been a member of Ahon sa Hirap Inc. since 1996. A wife and mother of three, Anita is an example of a diversified entrepreneur.

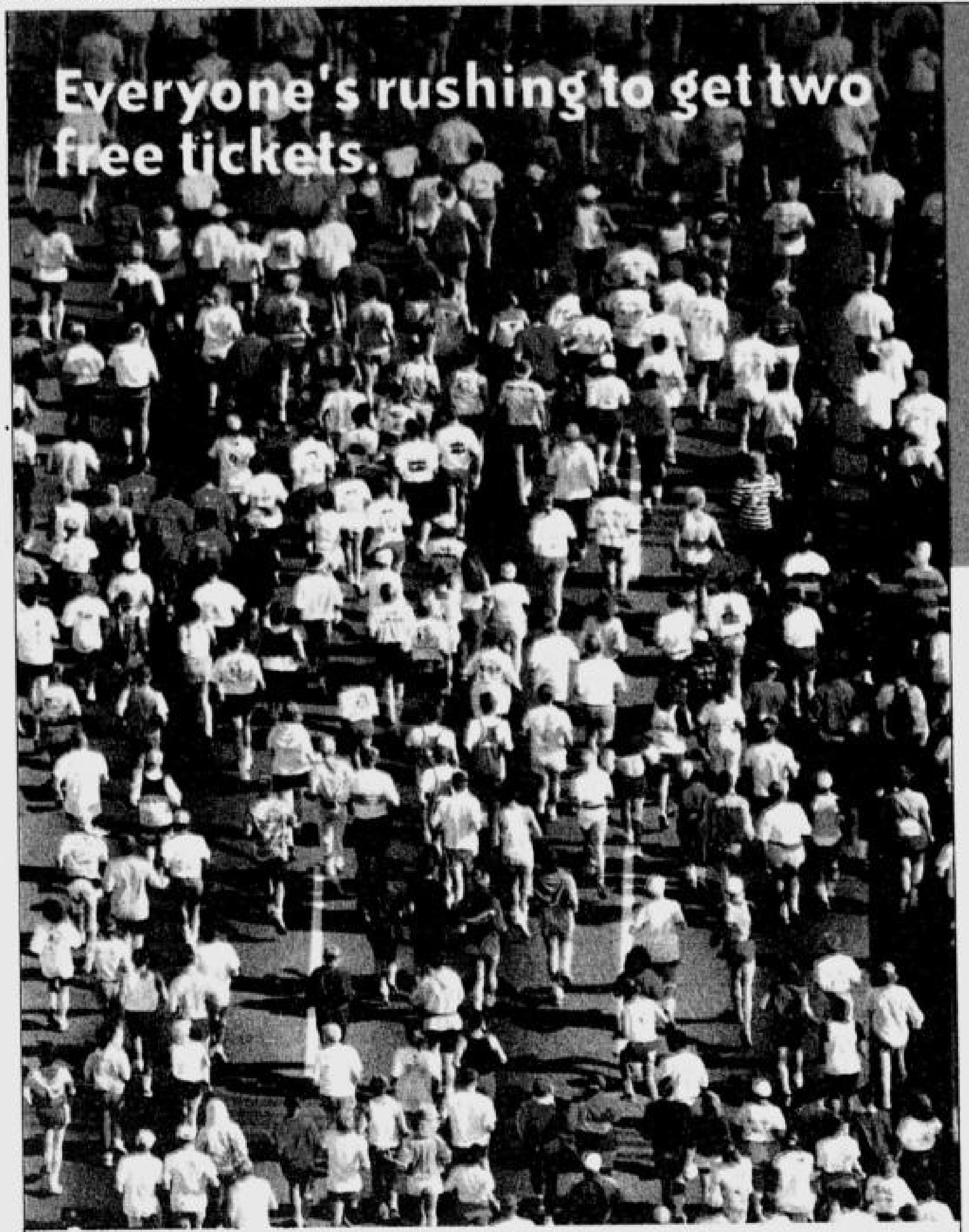
Her family's primary source of income is a banca or passenger boat. With the help of loans from ASHI, she and her husband renovated and enlarged the boat to accommodate more passengers.

Anita also has a catering business as her secondary income source. Together with two helpers, Anita caters and provides tables, chairs, balloons, decorations and other equipment for events on the island. The business earns her about P5,000 a month.

Gina Eman

Tandag, Surigao del Sur

MICRO-FINANCE/ C5



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Micro-finance helps poor fulfill business dreams

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

FELY Kalalo feeds her pigs

JOSEPHINE Alima's peanut cookies

THE POOR and underprivileged who have no chance of landing a high-paying job think about putting up their own business to make ends meet and hopefully build a better future for their families.

They have the enthusiasm and the right business idea but most go no further than dreaming about having their own small business because of lack of capital to bankroll their operations.

The poor could not easily get a regular loan from their local bank because they do not have enough collateral or papers to prove that they would be able to pay off their loan. But then there are those who are able to tap available micro financing facilities and, combined with hard work and talent, see their dream slowly turn into a profit generating reality.

It is in recognition of these hardworking individuals that Citibank launched this year its Citibank Microentrepreneur of the Year Award in collaboration with the Microfinance Council of the Philippines with the support of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Citibank launched the program to provide incentives to microentrepreneurs, inspire other microentrepreneurs to expand their business and to increase the public awareness of microfinance and microenterprise development as a tool for poverty alleviation.

Citibank supports the development of microenterprise and microfinance worldwide as a tool to reduce poverty. It is a major contributor to the worldwide Microcredit Summit Campaign which aims to provide microcredit services to 100 million poor households by 2005.

The commitment of the Philippines to the campaign is 2 million households.

A National Selection Committee chaired by Citibank country corporate officer Catherine M. Weir sifted through the nominations and 19 microentrepreneurs made it to the shortlist based on their sales turnover, growth in profits, rate of reinvestment and employment generation.

From these 19, eight will be recognized in a ceremony to be held at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas on Nov. 19 including Citibank's Microentrepreneur of the Year.

Business Monday features here the 19 finalists that would hopefully serve as catalysts to the growth of microentrepreneurship in the country.

Marilyn Alanza

Pulupandan, Negros Occidental

Marilyn Alanza operated a *bagoong* buy and sell business. She would buy *bagoong* from manufacturers and retail the product around the neighborhood. The mark-up was small so she yearned to increase the volume of her sales.

When she learned about Project Dungganon, she joined the project and took out an initial loan of P2,000. With the help of her husband, she grew the buy and sell business and gradually expanded to Mindanao.

As her business grew, so did her loans. She went back to the bank and borrowed P20,000 which she used to set up her own bagoong manufacturing facility. She also bought a pump boat and other materials for catching shrimp to make into *bagoong*.

Now, Marilyn not only manufactures bagoong for sale in Mindanao, but she also makes her own sal—a key ingredient in bagoong making.

Teresita Sunico

Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat

Teresita Sunico sells beans and ground corn, coffee, rice and coconut in the Tacurong Public Market. She began her business in 1997, selling business, charcoal, cleanser and beans from which she earned about P200 a day.

When El Nino struck in 1999, her business ground to a halt and she was forced to borrow from usurious lenders and she and her husband found themselves deep in debt.

Upon learning about the Rural Bank of Tacurong's microfinance program, the Sunicos applies for a P25,000-loan and began to improve their business.

Today, Teresita's business grosses P10,000 a day and nets P3,000 a day on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Celestina Soriano

Bulacan

Celestina Soriano or Aling Nene went through times when food was scarce and one of her children became very ill before she took out a loan from the Opportunity Microfinance Bank.

She used the loan to expand her very small sari-sari store which she earlier put up using the P1,000 given by her brother to her young son.

She is now on her 12th loan cycle and now her sari-sari store is now a mini grocery. She has also improved the place where she lives.

And even though Aling Nene's mini store has come a long way from the makeshift sari-sari store, she continues to dream about expanding her operations and becoming a wholesaler.

Evelyn Solitario

Tayabas, Quezon

Evelyn Solitario's life at the foot of Mt. Banahaw was far from ideal. Although both she and her husband were skilled at handicrafts, their combined income was never enough to cover food and household expenses.

There were times when they had to beg neighbors for powdered milk and water to go with their one meal of the day.

The Solitarios' luck turned in 1998 when Evelyn learned about the TSPI Kabuhayan Program where small loans could be obtained to put up microenterprises. She gathered her courage and took out a P5,000-loan to do what she did best— handicrafts.

She used this seed money to buy raw materials. Four years later, what began as a two-person operation employs about eight workers that produce an average of 600 native baskets and 200 wooden decorations a week.

Evelyn's weekly gross sales now amount to P40,000 for the baskets and P15,000 for the wooden décor.

Rosemarie Rabaya

Tandag, Surigao del Sur

Rosemarie Rabaya is a marine product dealer. Together with her husband, she buys high-grade fish, abalone, cuttlefish, prawns, lobsters and octopus from fishermen in Surigao and supplies them to larger companies that sell the products either in the local market or abroad.

The Rabayas began their business six years ago with a P15,000-loan from the Social Security System.

With the help of a Kita Loan from the Rural Bank of Cantilan, the couple began to invest in pumpboats with other fishing equipment and entered into contractual arrangements with fishermen.

From there the business grew significantly. The couple now has seven pump boats leased to fishermen. The current sales volume is around 300 kilos a week—a jump from 50 kilos six years ago. Sales also grew to P60,000 a week and profit reaches P9,000 a week or P36,000 a month.

Emma Morales

Manapla, Negros Occidental

Emma Morales did not finish high school because she married her husband Diotay quite early. They were farm laborers in a small rice paddy and they earned a combined P16 a day, certainly not enough to feed their two small children.

Emma was desperate and depressed until she learned about Project Dungganon of Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation in 1989.

After overcoming her fears of joining, Emma took out a P1,000 loan to put up a small convenience store and a banana cue business. Through perseverance, hard work and diligence in paying off her loans, Emma's loanable amount gradually increased.

In succeeding loans, she expanded the convenience store, purchased a second-hard passenger tricycle for her husband to drive and further augment their income.

Later on, she began a small piggery and also went into the dealership for Avon, Sara Lee and Tupperware.

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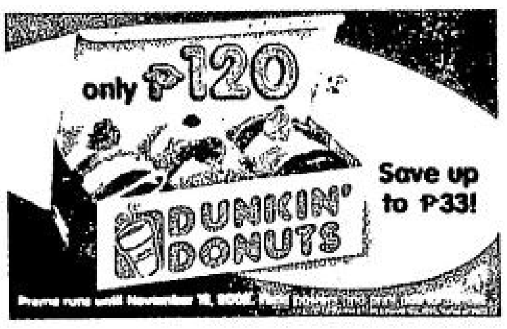
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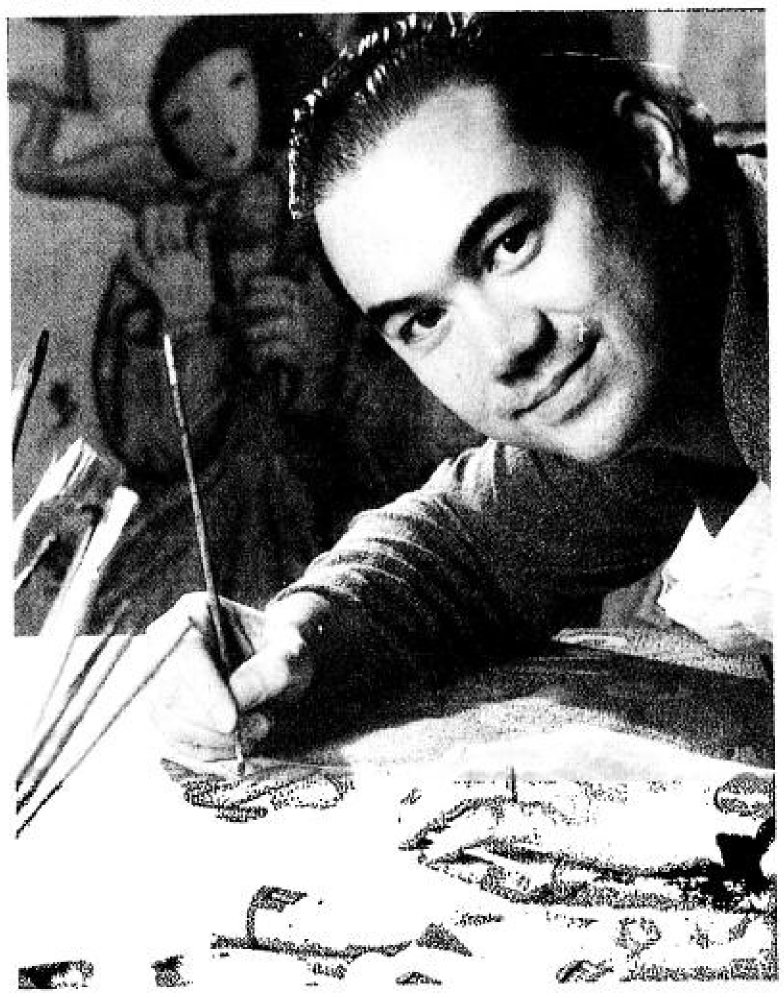

Pointillism and poetry by Jack Salud

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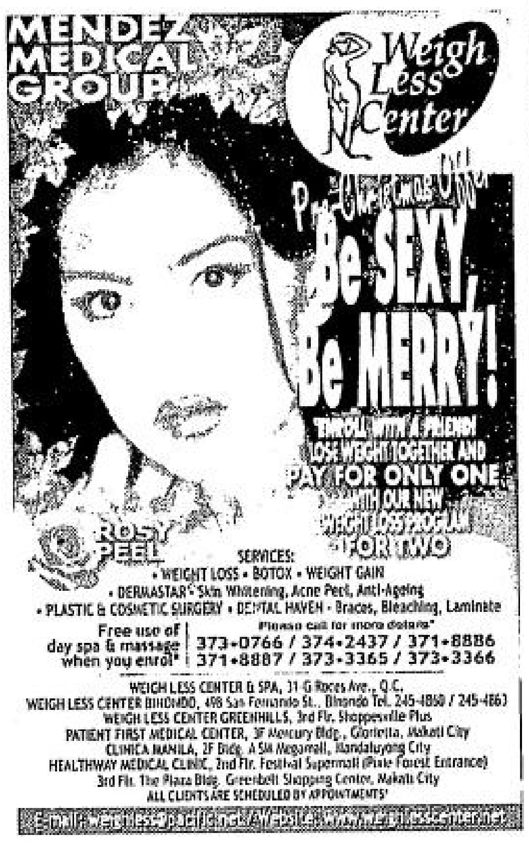
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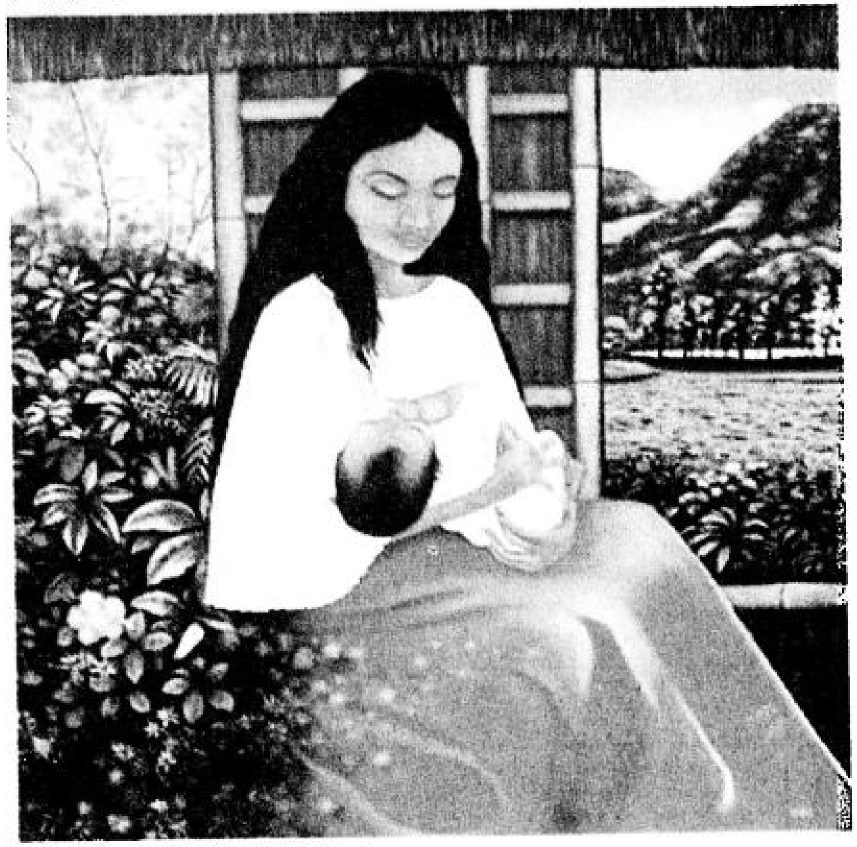
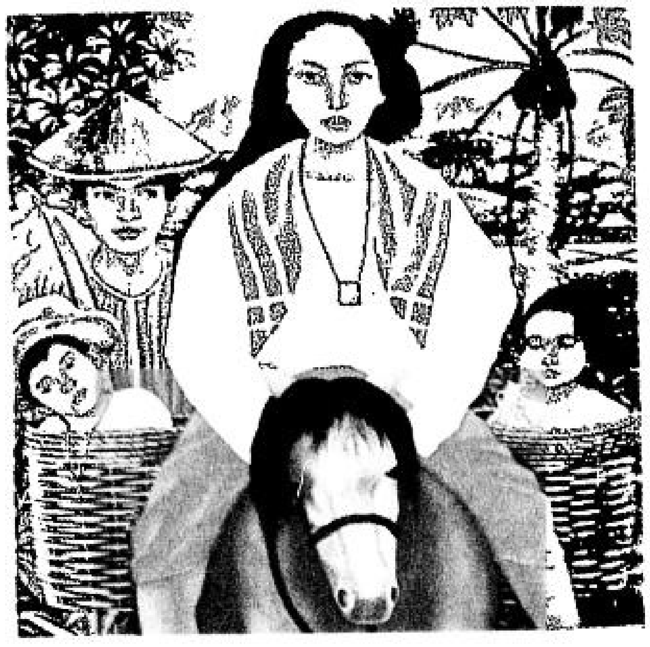
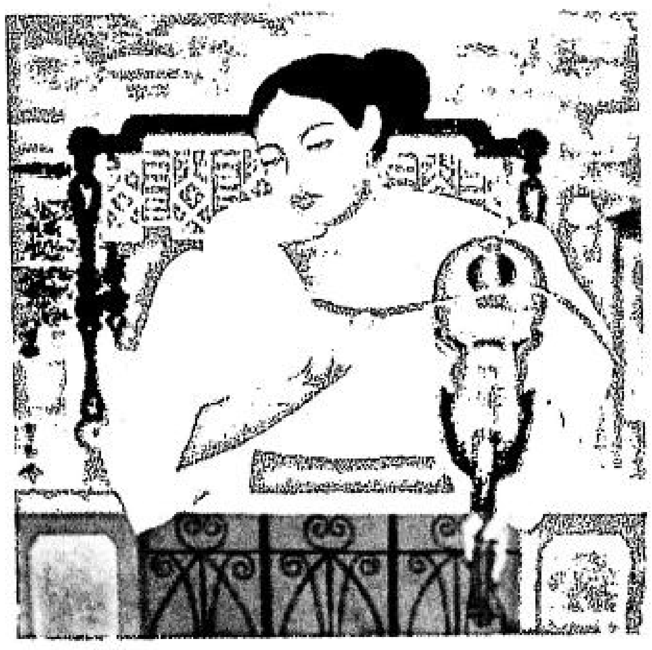

"MOTHER Cradling Child," oil on canvas


"THE PILGRIMAGE," oil on canvas


"MUSIKA," oil on canvas

The world of Dominic Rubio

BECAUSE of the Philippine Centennial celebrations barely four years ago, interest in the Philippines' past has been rekindled: the romance of the pineapple fiber, the way of life at the turn of the century colonial Philippines, and colonial postcards.

It is this milieu that has captured the imagination of artist Dominic Rubio in his second major exhibition, "Balik Alaala: Ang Ating Makulay na Nakaraan," the inaugural show of the new Galerie Joaquin (371 P. Guevarra St., Addition Hills, San Juan, Metro Manila; tel. 723-9253), on Nov. 22, 7 p.m., with former First Lady Amelita M. Ramos as special guest.

This exhibit, which marks Rubio's 11th year as a professional painter, features 22 major works that capture the romance and tradition in the Philippine way of life. The artist employs a wider range of colors this time.

"Balik Alaala" takes us back to a time when Philippine life was relaxed and unhurried. Breakfast would start at 10 with *tsokolate* or tea, plus rice and a few other dishes. A few hours of work and then it would be time for lunch from 2 to 3 p.m., followed by the almost ritualistic siesta that lasted until five. After this, it would be the social whirl: the *zarzuela*, the *commedia*, the masquerade, or simply music in the living room. It is in celebration of this era that Rubio painted "Musika" and "Three Ladies by the Balcony." Evenings would mean going to the *baile* (dance) or the park.

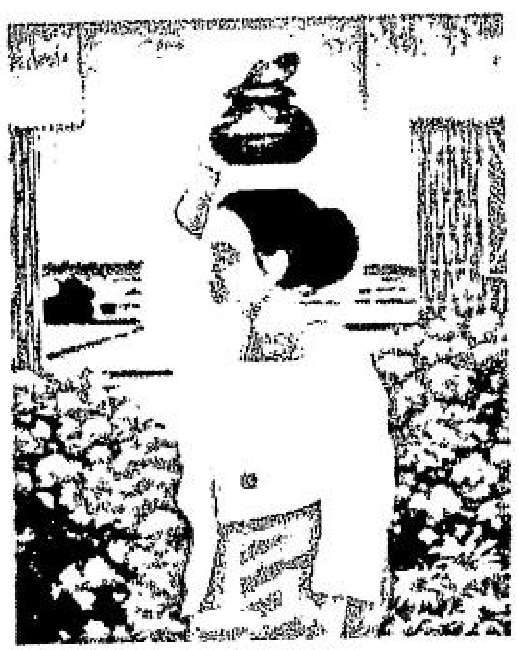
Rubio also interprets barrio scenes from our almost forgotten past. "The Milk Vendor" would deliver fresh carabao's milk in a small earthen container. "Woman Coming from Market" ("Talipapa") shows a woman wearing a *salakot* usually made out of upo or nipa fiber to shield her from the burning sun or the unforgiving rain. She carries a basket of newly bought vegetables. "Women with Burnay Jars" shows the traditional way of drawing water from the river.

Sundays would mean adults and children dressed in their finest abaca blouses heading off to church in a *kalesa*, as captured in "Young Girls on a Kalesa." It would also mean moving on foot or by horse and carriage, or even carried on a hammock, to religious shrines, as shown in "The Pilgrimage."

The new exhibit focuses on the Tagalog woman in colonial Philippines. The women are shown in embroidered finery, their long hair tied in a "*pusod*," with the *panuelo* as accessory. The show also includes three works showing pre-Hispanic Filipinos: "Lakan and Son," "Lakan Traders" and "Lakan Lovers." The show also features Rubio's favorite Mother and Child renditions.

Born in Paete, Laguna, Rubio depicts the rural countryside with an unbridled creative passion and highly personal interpretation. When he was in third-year high school, he found himself drawing incessantly and dabbling in papier mâché and sculptural designs. In his senior year, he tried his hand on abstract painting before zeroing in on his present forte: figurative drawings and landscapes.

While taking up advertising art at the College of Architecture and Fine Arts of the University of Santo Tomas, Rubio became a finalist in the Metrobank and Shell painting competitions. Among his major influences are Gustav Klimt, Rousseau, Raul Lebajo and Lamaroza.


"MILK Vendor," oil on canvas

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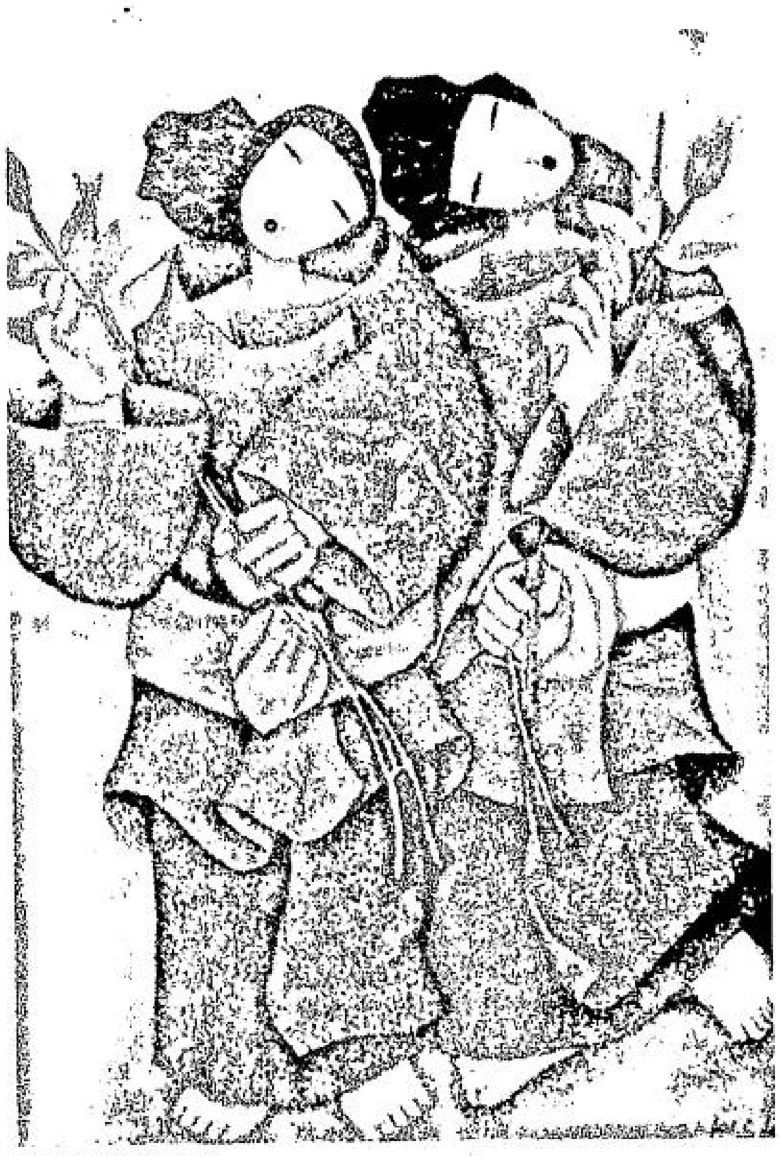
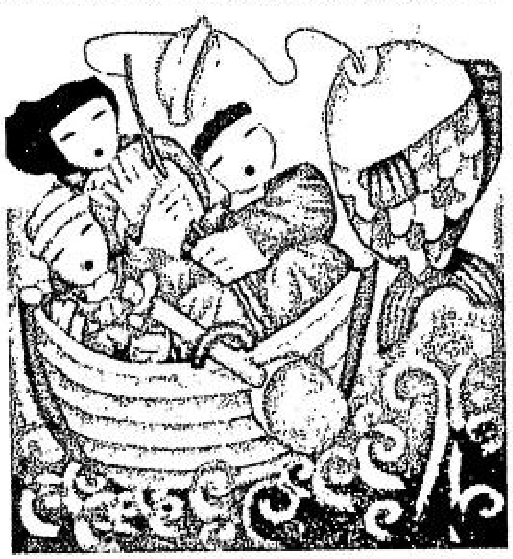
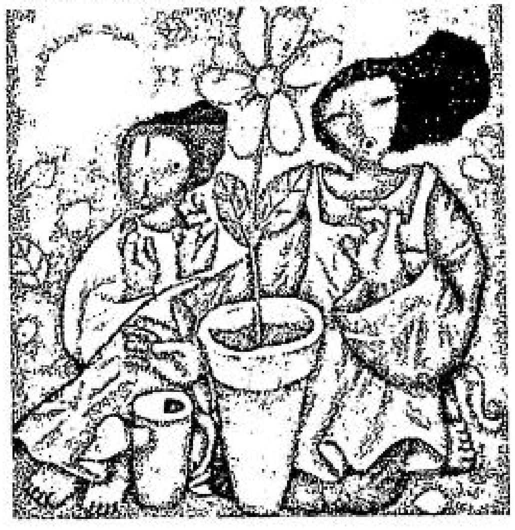
Pointillism and poetry by Jack Salud


"THE SEASON'S Charm"


"A FRUITFUL Quest"


"A GEM in Autumn"

WITH eight lighthearted poems, brilliantly interpreted through eight heart-warming images, painstakingly executed with a million delicate dots of paint on large canvases, Jack Salud takes his viewers to a brief journey of the simpler yet precious side of life. Entitled "My Soul Whispers Poetic Dotted Images," the show marks Salud's 10th solo exhibit, as well as his debut as a poet.

"I have always wanted to combine my paintings and poems in one show ever since my first exhibit. I have decided to delay it until now in order to give my painting style enough time to evolve into its ripest form," Salud says. He admits that during his younger years, he did more creative writing than painting. His writing skill has enabled him to participate in writing competitions during his high school years in San Beda College and Colegio de San Agustin. As a marketing major at De La Salle University, Salud wrote articles for the class newsletter. During summer he engaged in part-time scriptwriting for the Christian show "Let There Be Light," aired on Channel 9 in 1988. As former marketing manager of the electronics giant, JVC, Salud was greatly involved in the creation of sales and promotional materials such as catalogs, flyers and other sales collateral.

"The poems and paintings I have created for this show are very light and childlike in perspective," Salud says. His desire in all his exhibits has always been to take the viewers to a place and moment of tranquility.

Jack Salud is perhaps one of the few pioneers of pointillism in the Asian art scene. His paintings present various images inspired by the moods of calmness and peace. Salud derives most of his artistic inspirations from seeing various people, places and objects from different Asian countries, particularly Japan, which he visits at least twice a year.

"I am always fascinated by the serenity, simplicity and beauty of the way the Japanese do things as well as the way nature puts on a new face from one season to another," Salud says. "Whether it be a tea ceremony, a quiet temple, a charmingly packaged delicacy, a serene rock garden, a green tea plantation or women strolling in kimonos, I always try to absorb the quietness and splendor of it all. Yes, Japan does have the greatest influence in my artistic expression and communication."

Aside from artistic inspiration, Japan is also the place where he met his Japanese wife, Kazue, whom he married in August 1993.

After his first successful solo exhibit entitled "Love, Love Songs and Lullabies" at the Ayala Museum in 1997, Salud was awarded the prestigious commission to design the museum's Christmas cards that year.

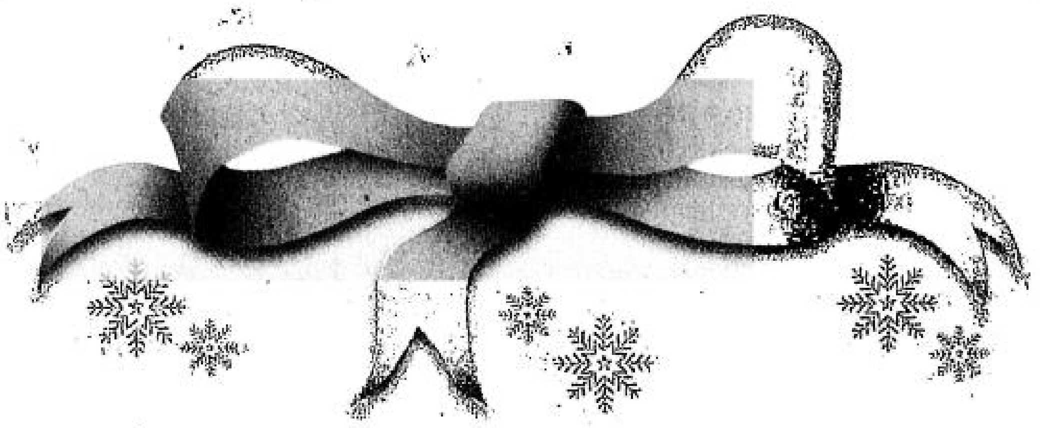
In 1999, he was invited by the Philippine Ambassador to Japan to be the Filipino painter to exhibit at the Cultural Hall of the consulate building in Roppongi, Tokyo, Japan. Salud holds one solo exhibit every year and participates in group shows organized by Gallery Genesis, Gallery 139 and others.

"My Soul Whispers Poetic Dotted Images," runs from Nov. 22 to Dec. 4 at the Gallery 139, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center. Call 728-9724.

My paper windmill

Oh, thank you, father high above,
For this great wind I dearly love.
With faith I knew it would arrive
And make my windmill come alive.

To watch it spin gives me much joy,
It's just a hand-made paper toy.
Though small and frail to anyone's sight,
By God's command it spins with might.



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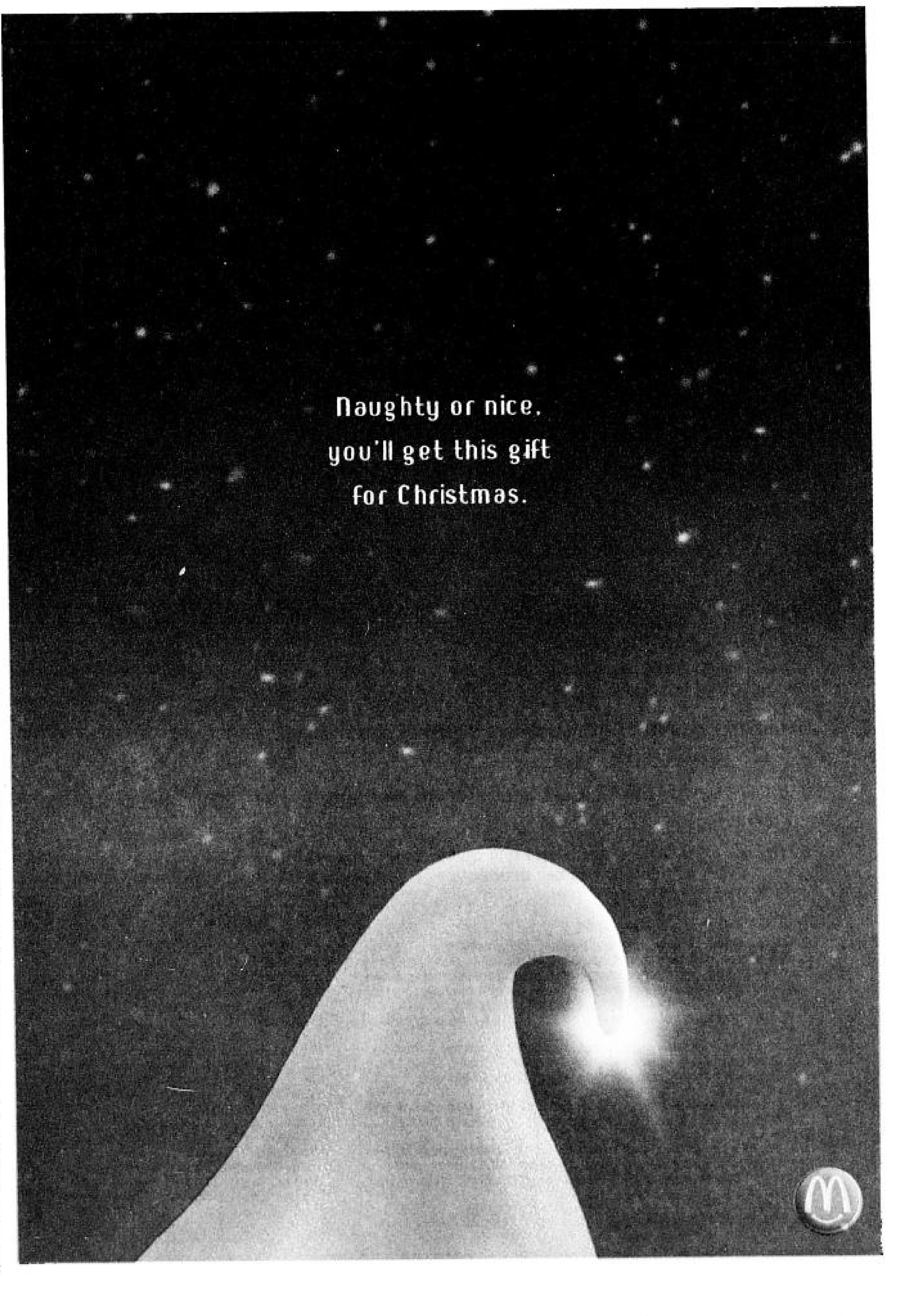
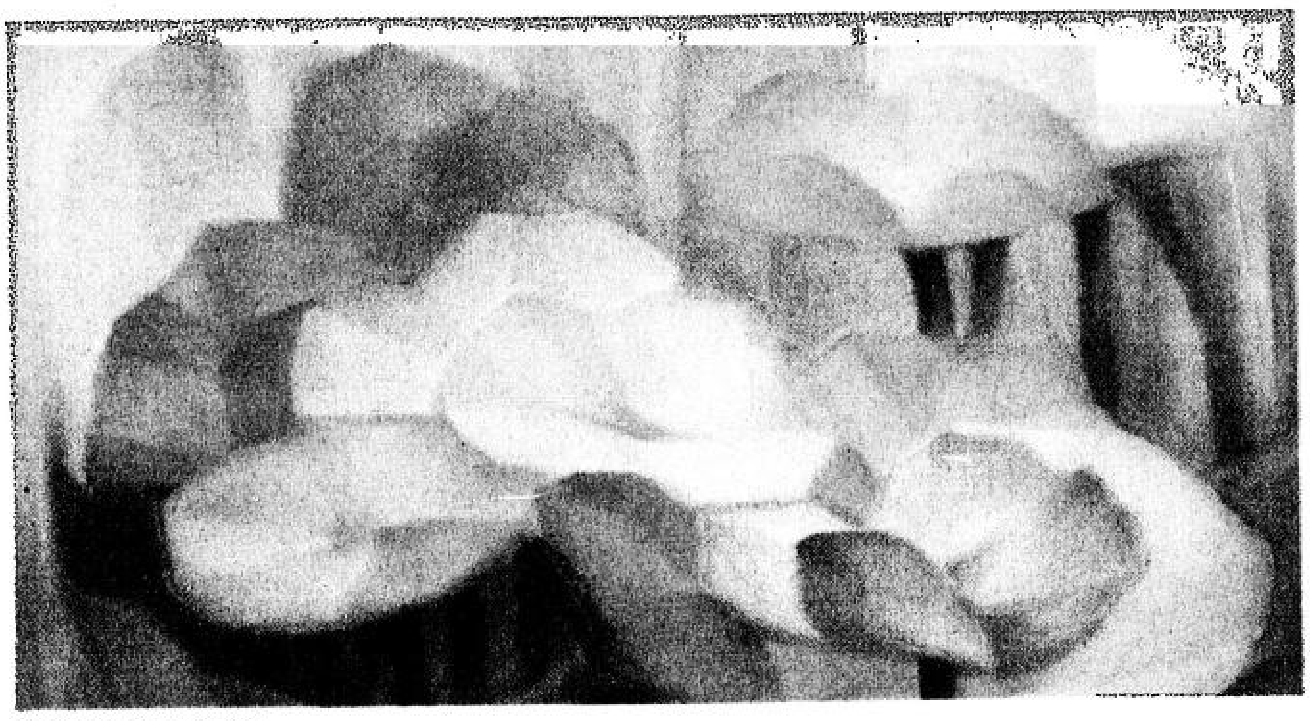


The fire and the force of James Onglepho

Art is spirit and power, like Onglepho's stirring lotus

By Lito B. Zulueta

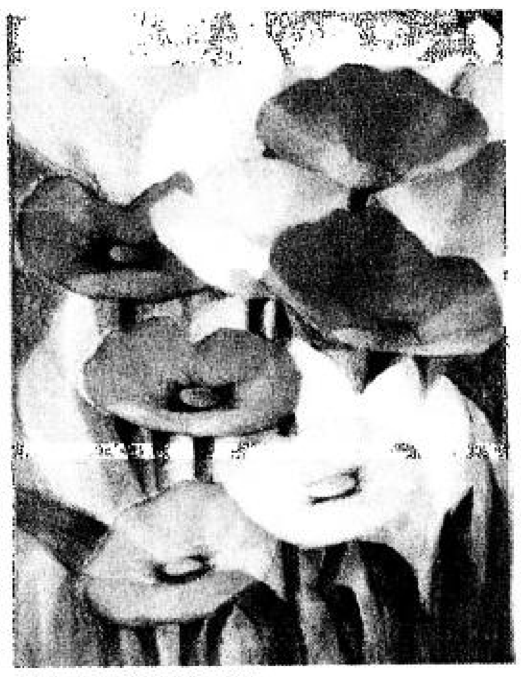
RESTFUL verve characterizes the 22nd solo show of James Onglepho at the Asia Art Gallery. Restful in the sense that he sticks to the subject that has become his trademark—restful lotus (without barring a few dreamy landscapes); verve because although not much has perceptively changed in Onglepho's art, the energy that through the green fuse drives the lotus flower has become more and more concentrated and animated. If art is spiritual, then Onglepho has a lock to it.



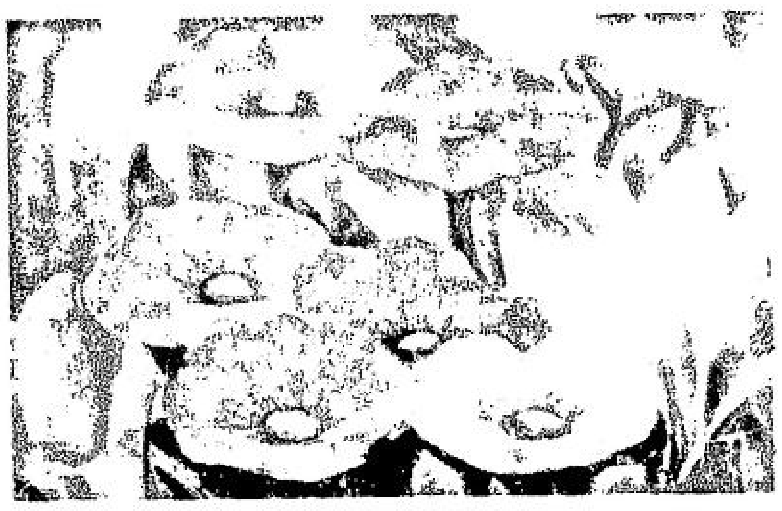
"SHARING 2002-35"

The spiritual in Onglepho's art is not exactly religious, although that is not precluded. It is more in the depth every work seems to be infused with—in composition, color, line, light and shadow. The spiritual is in the paradox of his art and subject. How could a subject that denotes stillness and calm have been so presented in a manner so vital and vivifying?

The answer partly lies in Onglepho's mastery of Chinese stylistic art that he has recast in the modern idiom. It also lies in his cultivation of a personal philosophy that draws from Eastern- and Christian-inspired teachings. It could even be said that the teachings had been lived even before they were learned. As many of his contemporaries would attest, the trajectory of Onglepho's career has been one of serene integration of the joys and hardships that come with life. In fact, it would be wrong to divide his personal involvements and artistic career because he fully lives all aspects of existence with hardly any qualm. His is the wisdom and the calm fire of an art well lived, of a life well sketched.



"SHARING 2002-24"



"SHARING 2002-03"

Resilient effulgence

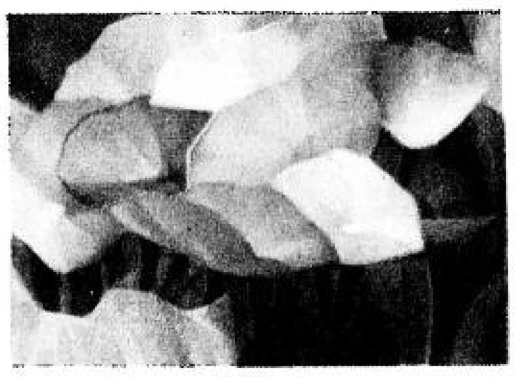
With Onglepho, one talks not about brilliance, like a comet that appears but once in a hundred years, but resilient effulgence. Among the finalists and winners of Shell and AAP in the 1950s, who have survived? We have Ang Kiukok, Olazo, Sanso, Onglepho, and a few others. We are not talking here of natural decay and death, but artistic perseverance and longevity. Artists such as Onglepho have labored through the decades in the face of neglect and anonymity, without the indulgence and support of press and patrons, coming into their own by sheer assiduity to discover the truth about their art and about themselves. No wonder they need not rant and rave like the madman, our common idea of artists. Onglepho's presence alone is authoritative.

ONGLEPHO

Marvel at the authority of Onglepho's lotuses. They are Jesus' lilies in a tropical setting: "Look at the lotuses of the mudfield... they neither toil nor spin, but Solomon in all his splendor was never arrayed as one of this." Onglepho himself never tires of his fascination of the lowly lotus. "Look at the lotus," he said. "We see them in the dirtiest of places, in rivers full of trash. Its surroundings may be dirty and hardly taken care of, but the lotus itself is clean and this represents the heart of the gentleman."

Artist-gentleman

Onglepho is the artist-gentleman. He thrives in settings ideal and foul, blessed and blighted. At the heart of his bevy of lotuses is an eerie spark, revealing not only his deft handling of light and shadow, but also his spiritual fire. It is the fire that flickers inextinguishably even in the harshest of moments. It never leaves the heart of the lotus, it never leaves our soul.

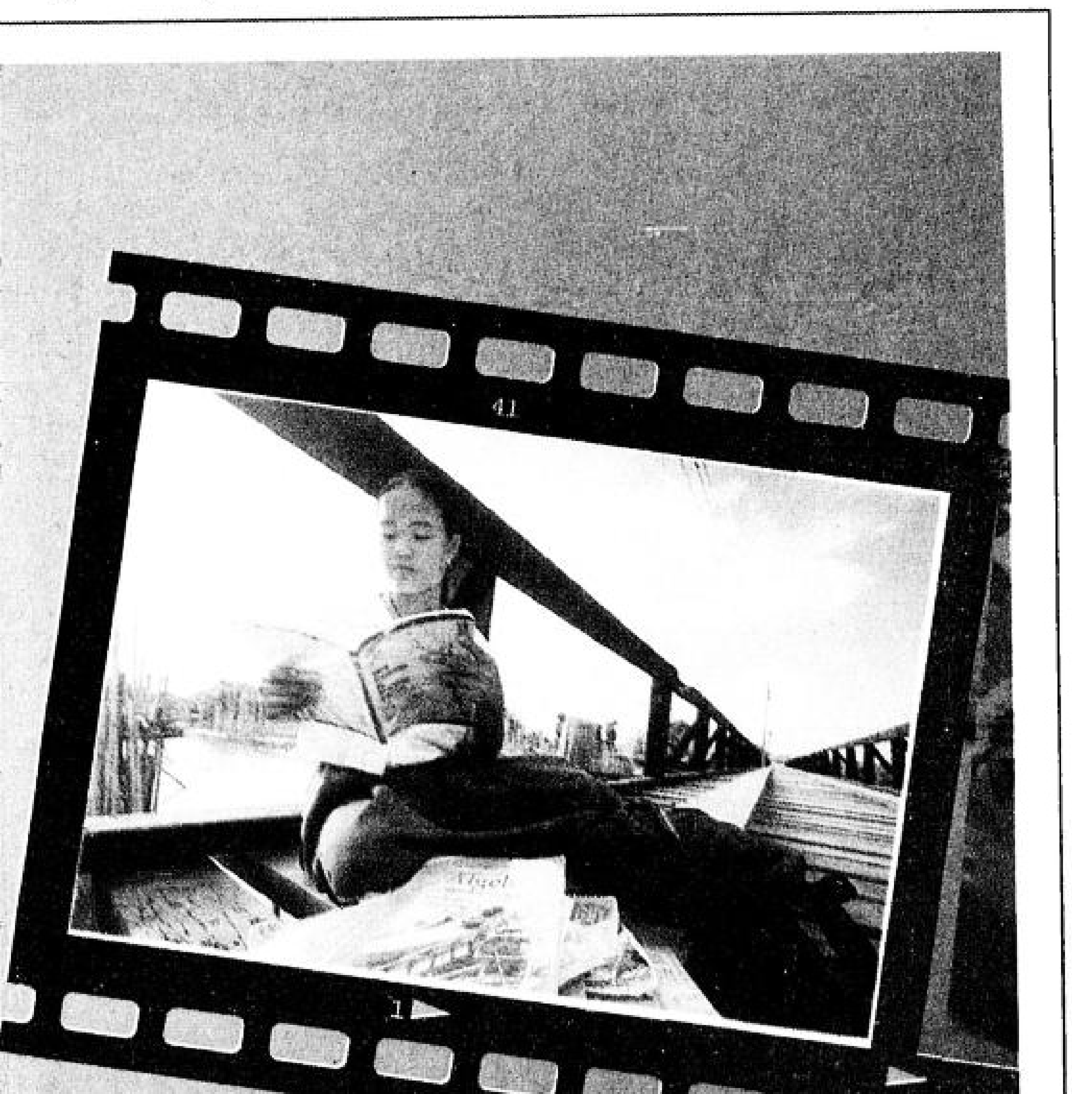


"SHARING 2002-36"

However, Onglepho is not your apostle of individualism, of the do-it-alone, come-hell-or-high-water. In fact, some of the happiest paintings in the new exhibit revolve around the theme of sharing. So invariably he shows lotuses in a cluster, as if comforting one another, enjoying each other's company. The artist seems to say that people, like lotuses, draw from each other's fire and strength. A habit of sharing and communion keeps the self-indulgent fire from consuming itself.

It is this habit of personal sharing—in exhibiting his works, playing mentor and discoverer to younger artists, and being generally encouraging and positive of the works of others, be they peer or aspirant—that has made Onglepho the quiet, authoritative and beautiful presence that he has become on the art scene. He himself is lotus and fire, breathing beauty, giving off life-affirming energy.

James Onglepho's 22nd one-man show opens at the Asia Art Gallery (6/L, Shangri-La Plaza, Mandaluyong City) on Nov. 20 at 6 p.m. Guests of honor include Ma. Clara Acuna Camacho, Anita Sy, Noemi Ignacio, Elizabeth Nocom, Mildred Bernardo and Kaye Gamboa. Exhibit runs until Dec. 15. Call 632-1433.



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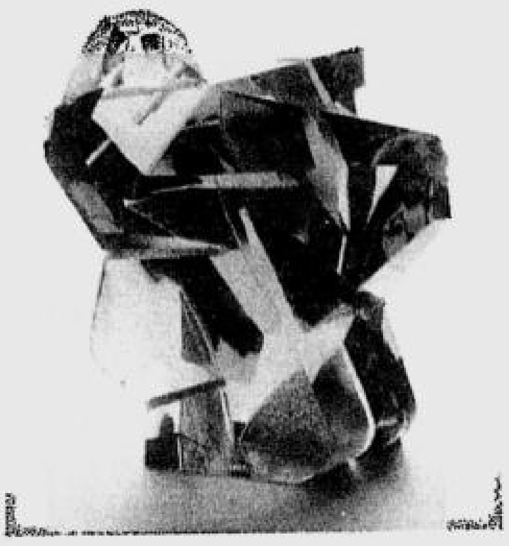
FORCE and grace combine in Orlina's "Martial Arts Form 1, 2 and 3" (above and lower right)

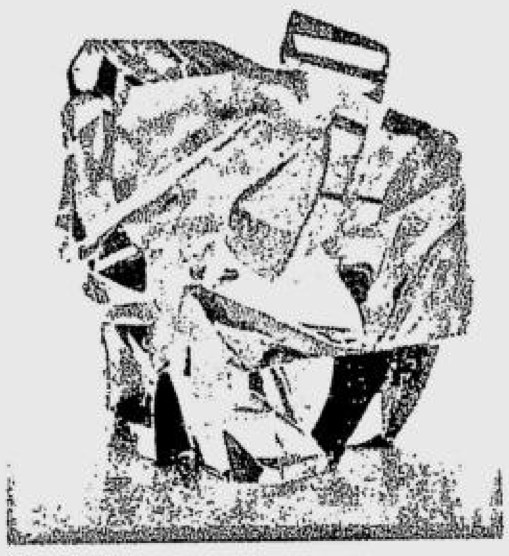
A new exhibit sees the master glass sculptor gloriously trapping creatures and jins in time

Orlina goes martial arts, sort of

From page D8

Probing yet another dimension of his genius in composition, Orlina launches a collection that once more flaunts his prowess at conquering glass. Dubbed "Translucent Life," the new body of works boasts of martial arts renditions, truly mesmerizing banner pieces. With them, Orlina indeed depicts translucence, endowing combat with seamless grace.





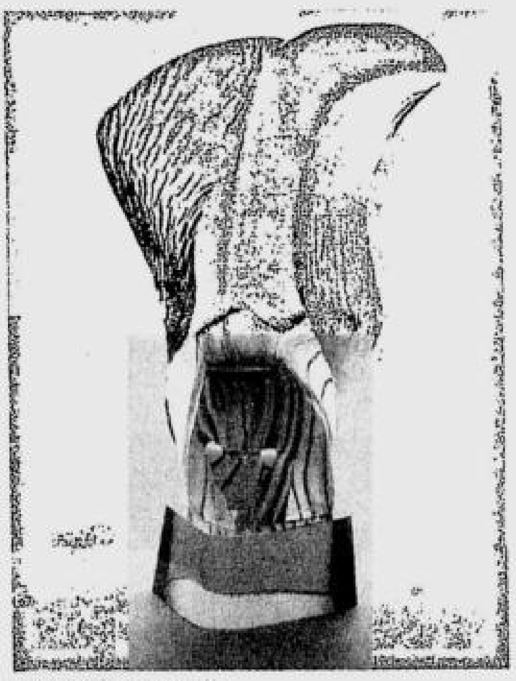
Translucence is really demanded of the sculptures for it conceals imperfection and lends them an ethereal quality. Achieving it entails shrewd calculation. How can something characteristically transparent have this property? How can glass warp appearance while thickening?

True, with minimal abrasion it can be done, but in these series, no roughness is imparted. Orlina's nearly three decades interaction with his medium has empowered him with the ability to use its flaws to his advantage. With his sweet plunder, Orlina now immortalizes life with an allusive gossamer cosmetic. Like an object under a sorcerer's spell, glass conforms in acquiescence to the artist's wand of vitreous verve.

In each enthralling piece of emerald ice, the acclaimed sculptor possibly surpasses his past presentations. Interpretations of avian and martial arts movements elicit the usual awe while slowly coaxing recognition of forms. His recent sculptures have nurtured a distinct artistic tact: They tickle first the eyes, then the mind into submission. Which is to say that he also works his wand on his audience.

Glacial warmth

Not that the glacial reverie you drift into is without warmth. There is actually an aspect of comfort for those who whimsically perceive Orlina's creations as stylized gelatinous matter—vivifying the cunning with which weightlessness and fluidity are implied, belying actual mass.



"IBONG Adarna"

The exhibit sees Orlina gloriously trapping creatures and jins in time. Images of life, captured, frozen, but without the cold harshness, as though he has sheathed upon them a diaphanous veil, softening them. For how else can one portray a martial arts sparring or a *kata* position with both force and grace at once? An admirable feat, considering the precision in movement and coordination that the discipline of defense requires. In these, the artist fully exploits his clever intrusions, which splice the green cleanly, the gaps and pits magnifying rather than diminishing the structure. In the process, martial art choreography is skillfully mimicked.

The marriage of the angular with the curvilinear, along with the subtle manipulation of undulating reflections, is brought to the fore in the "Birdsong" series. The mirrored veins vividly bring to mind the majesty of feathered display in suspended flight.

The new offerings are stunning—enigmatic yet refreshing, stark while effervescent, exhilarating and at the same time calming. Delightful paradoxes are demonstrable through Ramon Orlina's objets d'art.

Ramon Orlina's "Translucent Life" runs from Nov. 19 to 30 at Gallery Nine in Megamall. Call 687-7302 or 899-2704.

Looking beyond the landscape

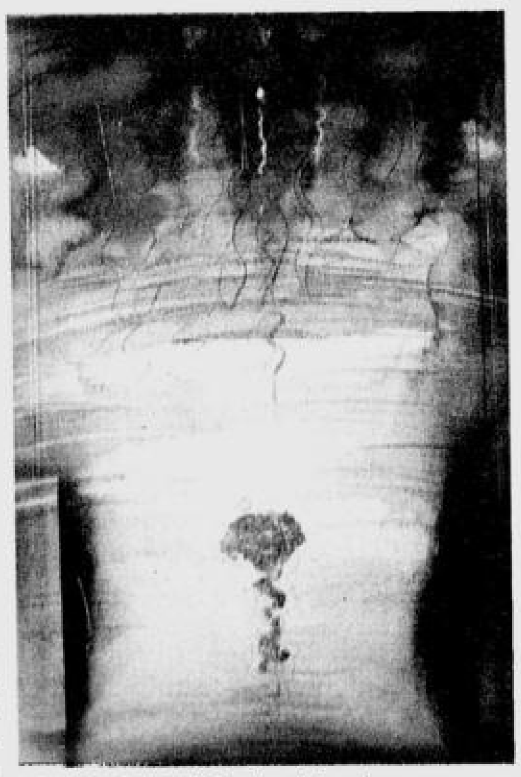
From page D7

Gabuco's endearing feminine allure.

Of the Pintanaw members, Fred Ramirez and Omi Reyes are the most difficult to pin down stylistically. Both artists can swing to the opposite sides of the pendulum, from realism to abstraction and vice versa, with relative ease and aplomb. Ramirez, for instance, has an abstract piece called "Agos ng Buhay," which recalls his award-winning "Kulay sa Tubig" piece, complete with colors cascading down the canvas. His next piece turns out be as clear as a sunny day in "Morning Light," no less eloquent in its realistic rendering, complete with trees, foliage and all.

Buds Convocar, the most prodigal of the members by virtue of his steadfast refusal to take the realistic path, comes off being the most distinctive. He employs his abstract-expressionist strokes with fidelity.

As we have said, Pintanaw is not just a group of painters dabbling in various styles and subjects. It is, in word and in deed, a way of painting. For this group of 14 artists, each with a sensibility different from each other, the way comes off colorfully well.



"COSMIC Flow" by Fred Ramirez

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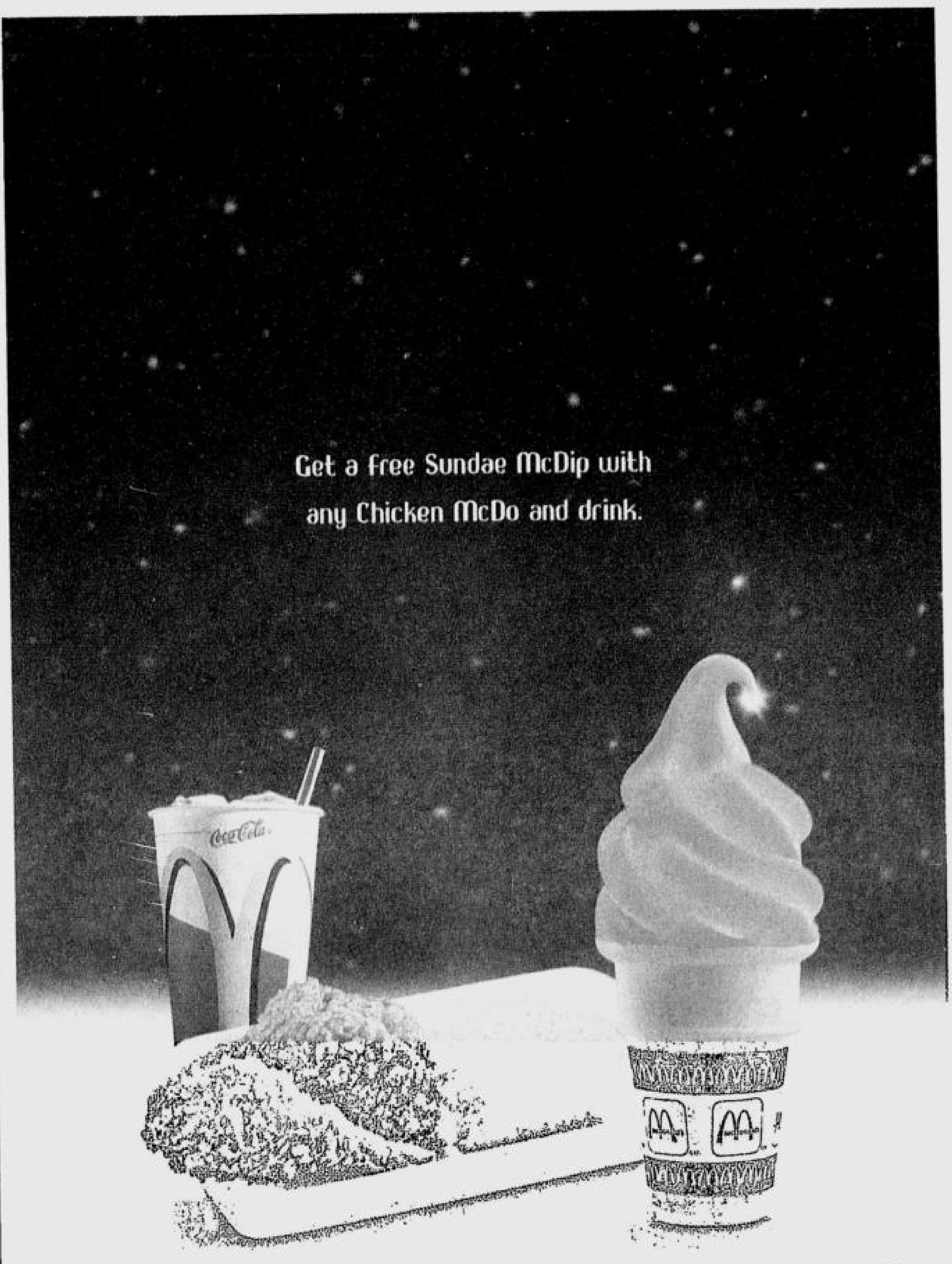

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DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

ASIDE from celebrating Spain's National Day in October, the Spanish Embassy, together with its cultural arm, Instituto Cervantes, organized cultural events. Filipinos had choices of a film festival, musical events, stage shows and a fashion show at Puerta Real.

At the reception tendered by Spanish Ambassador **Tomas Pantoja**, there was a relaxed atmosphere with a combo playing Latin music, delightful *paella* and the all-time favorite *jamon serrano* enjoyed by guests from the diplomatic corps: Netherlands Ambassador **Theo Arnold**, Italian Ambassador **Umberto** and Mme. **Clara Colesanti**, Brunei Ambassador **Hajah Maimunha Dato Haji Elias**, Laos Ambassador and Mme. **Phiane Philakone**, and Myanmar Ambassador **U Tin Tun** and Mme. **Daw Nan Phaung**.

Also present were Venezuelan Ambassador **Milena Ramirez**, Mexican Ambassador **Enrique** and Mme. **Mariana Hubbard**, Saudi Arabian Ambassador **Saleh Mohamad Al-Ghamdi** and British Ambassador **Paul** and Mme. **Carolyn Dimond**.

Among the Filipino contingent were Speaker **Joe de Venecia**, Dr. **Mita Pardo de Tavera**, **Johnny Litton**, Dr. **Jaime Laya**, **Nena** and **Al Casimiro**, Consuls **Fortune Ledesma**, **Evie Costa**, **Helen Ong**, and **Marit** and **Tito Yuchengco**. Also there were Frs. **Pedro Galende**, O.A.R., and **Gabriel Casal.**

PAPAL Nuncio Msgr. Antonio Franco, Frank Ebdalin and Spanish Ambassador Tomas Rodriguez Pantoja

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

FR. Gabby Casal

* * *

The Manila audiences were treated to a delightful evening with Venezuelan music by El Cuarteto, four musicians renowned for their interpretation of Venezuelan traditional music, and mezzo-soprano **Dalila Colombo**, who has truly a magnificent voice. Colombo is not only a multiawarded stage and television actress, but an opera singer of note. Venezuelan Ambassador Ramirez had long wanted to bring over a taste of Venezuela, but the constraints of distance make cultural exchanges difficult.

* * *

Austria recently celebrated its National Day with a reception hosted by Austrian Ambassador **Christian Krepela** and wife **Irmgard**. It was well-attended by Filipino dignitaries, members of the diplomatic corps, friends from the business and culture fields, and members of the Austrian community.

* * *

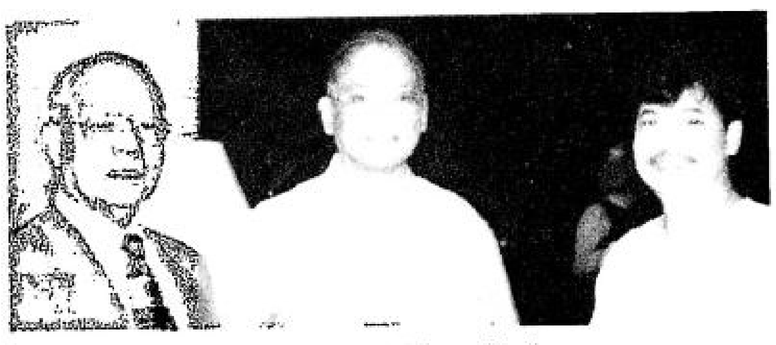
The bureau chief of Agence France Press (Manila), **Parameswaran Ponnuduraia**, was conferred the Ordre National Du Merite as Chevalier (you can now refer to him as Sir Param) in a reception hosted by French Ambassador **Renee Veyret**. The dinner catered by the Inter-Con was attended by Param's fellow press members and close friends.

VENEZUELAN Ambassador Milena Ramirez

FARIA Ramirez

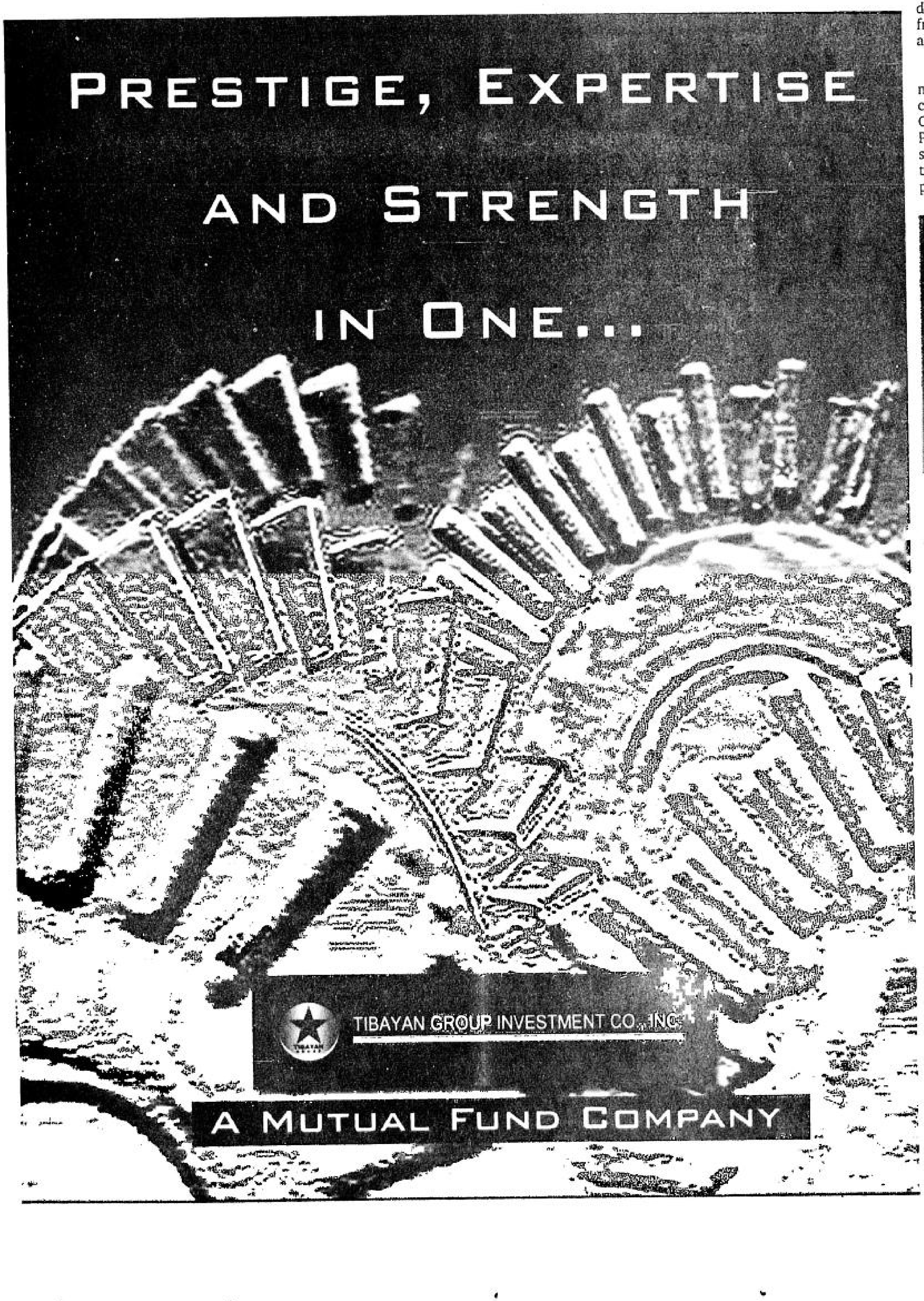
PIERRE Lesourd, Mme. Ponnuduraia, French Ambassador Renee Veyret and Parameswaran Ponnuduraia

CYNTHIA Carrion, Irmgard Krepela, British Ambassador Paul and Carolyn Dimond



AL Casimiro, Dr. Jaime Laya and Albert Avellana

DAW Nan Phaung, Laos Ambassador and Mme. Phiane Philakone



Looking beyond the landscape

Pintanaw finds rhyme and reason in diversity

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

A GROUP show is bound to become a mixed bag of images and styles, given the large number of artistic sensibilities that make up the show, not to mention the discordant note that is struck in a wide and open field of chosen subjects and themes.

But given a fairly cohesive, close-knit group like Pintanaw, the odds are relatively nil, and the personal freedoms generated augur well for the group's strict adherence to quality.

In "Pintanaw: Isang Makulay na Pananaw," (Gallery Genesis, until Nov. 21), one is awed not so much by the numbers (there are now 14 members, with the addition of Boy Bandalan, Noel Catacutan and Dems de la Cruz) as by the recurrence of familiar, time-honored subjects.

The most popular, of course, is the landscape genre, which yields a fairly large number of entries in the show. Lino Acasio, with his masterly renderings of the bucolic Batangas landscape, is a class all by himself, as he sets about capturing the Arcadian surroundings with his perspicacious brush and paint.

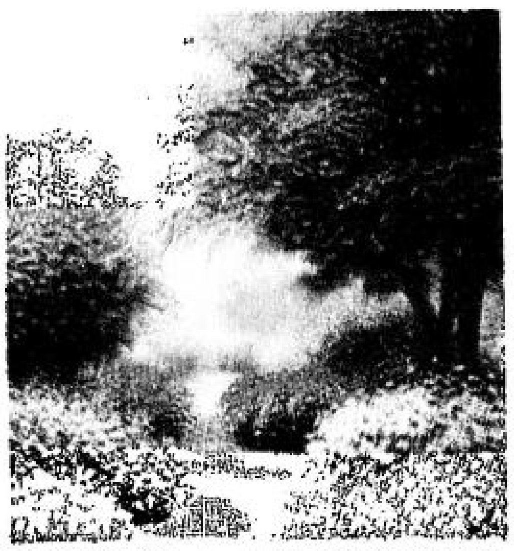
Eliezer Dimaculangan and Melencio Sapnu paint in uncannily similar if not related fashion, and only in the fine details of their works can one spot the differences in their depictions of well-tended, mist-draped gardens and antiquarian interiors.

It is Fidel Sarmiento, the group's guiding light, who springs a pleasant surprise here, with his acrylic and oil renderings of his trademark subject—ancestral houses, turn-of-the-century furnishings and accessories—in what appear as a now radically transformed palette.

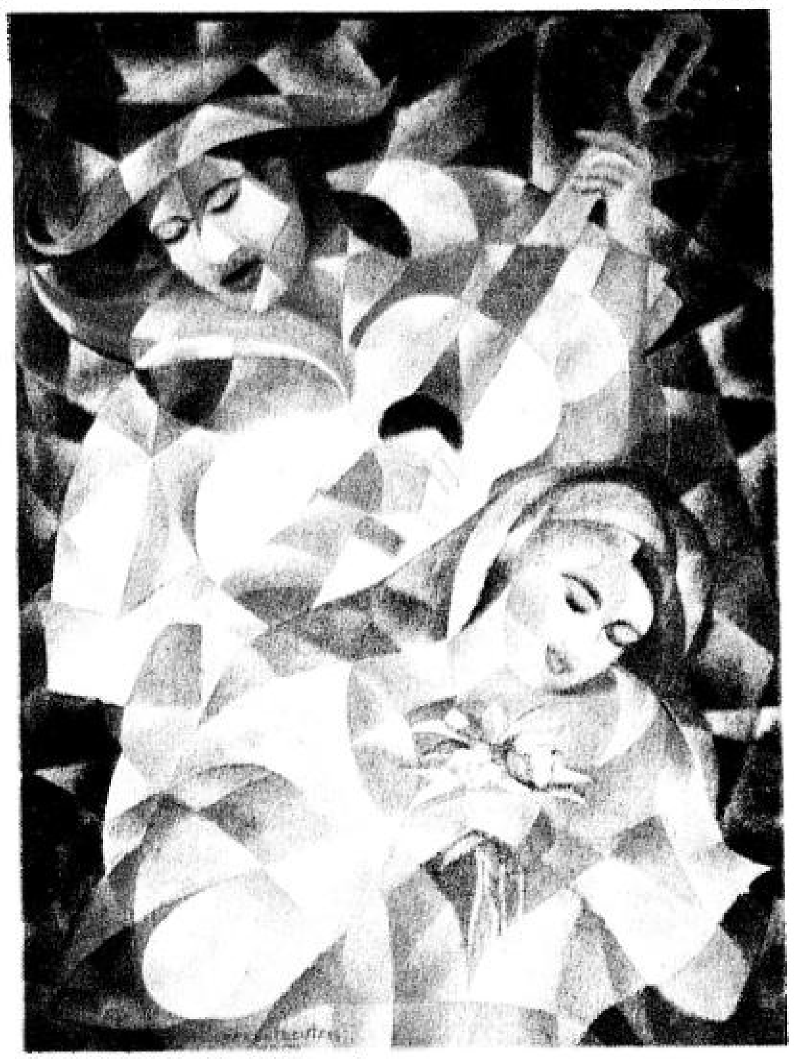
The second most favored subject is, of course, the mother-and-child icon, which gets a reprise in the works of Robbie Nubla, Caloy Gabuco, Danilo Santiago and Noel Catacutan. Nubla's "Mag-ama" series reworks the flip side of the subject by focusing on father-and-child bonding instead of the usual slant on women. Gabuco, as expected, has stuck to his favorite subject, which he wonderfully refurbishes with new touches of his characteristic ephemeral-mystical strokes.

Santiago, working in pastel, captures the strength and solidity of his maternal icons, perhaps as a contrary, if not opposite view, of

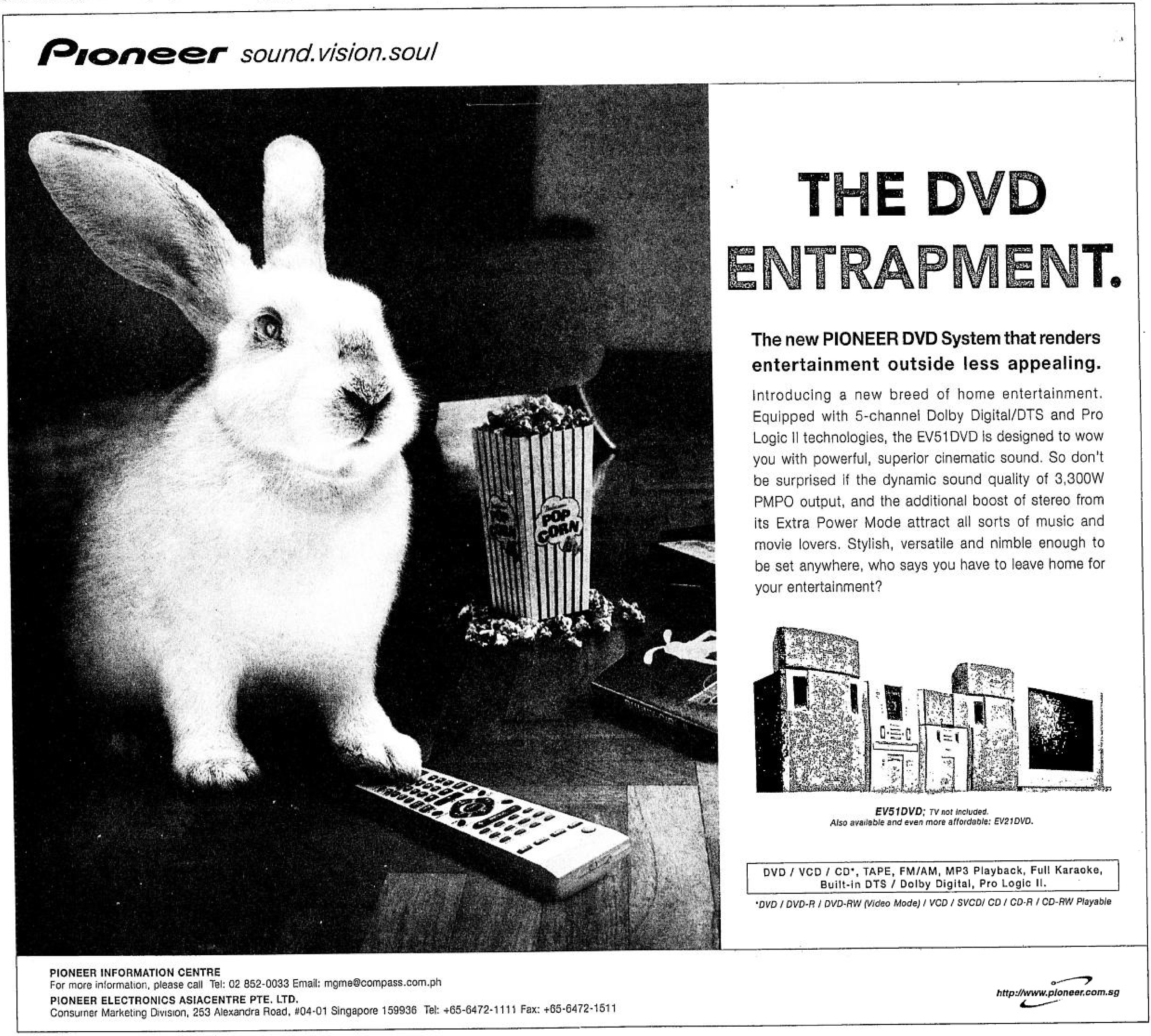
LOOKING/ p.D5



LANDSCAPES are explored in Pintanaw's exhibit, as in "Nature's Pride" by Antonio Bandalan.



"HARANA" by Noel Catacutan



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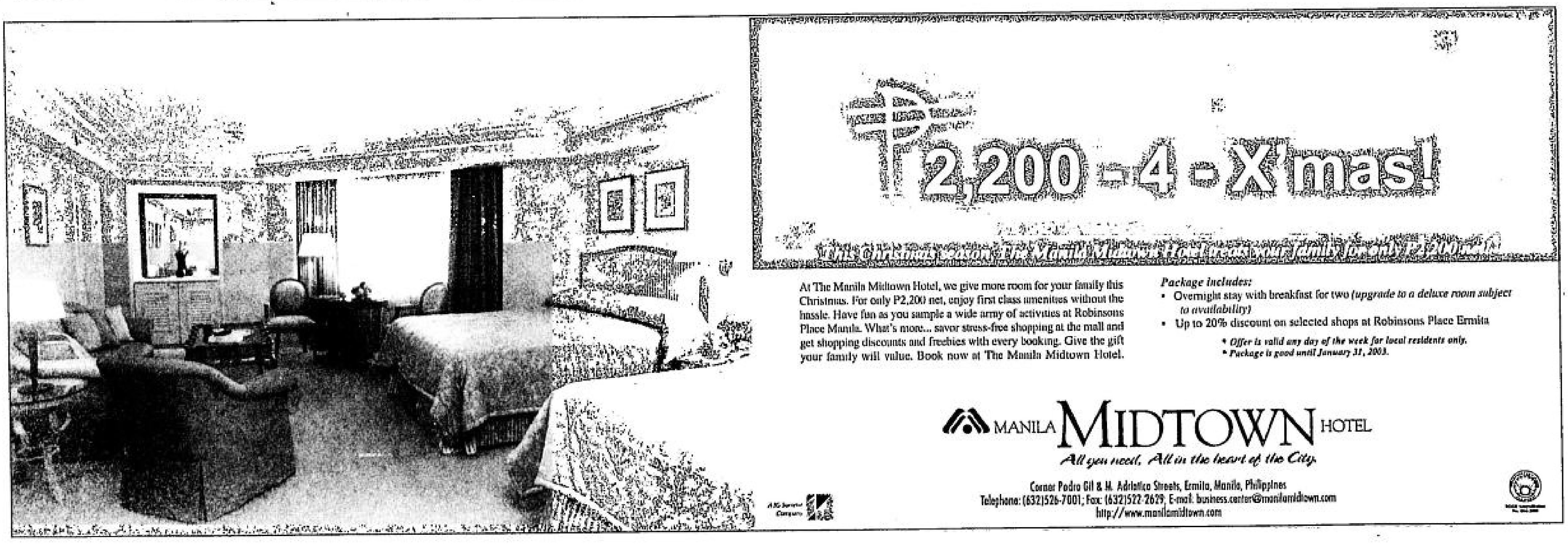

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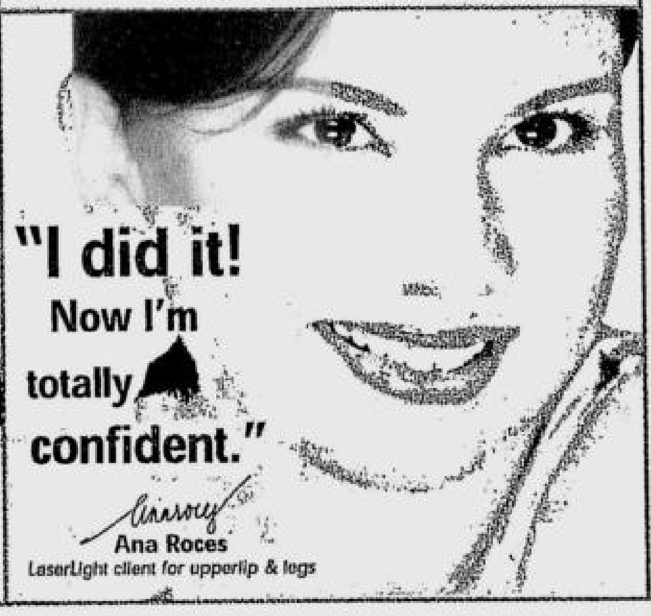
"BIRDSONG"

Orlina goes martial arts, sort of

By Jessica Jalandoni-Robillos
Contributor

HIS EARLIER works obviously showed Ramon Orlina wooing his Muse and medium. The successful courtship resulted in pieces bearing the vestiges of his architectural training. Though he used birds and the human form as subjects, majority of his debut sculptures were abstractions, perhaps because he had deemed this the best method to get acquainted with the possibilities of faceting glass. Now a 27-year love affair, the challenge continues, never failing to surprise Orlina followers with each outing.

ORLINA/ p.D5



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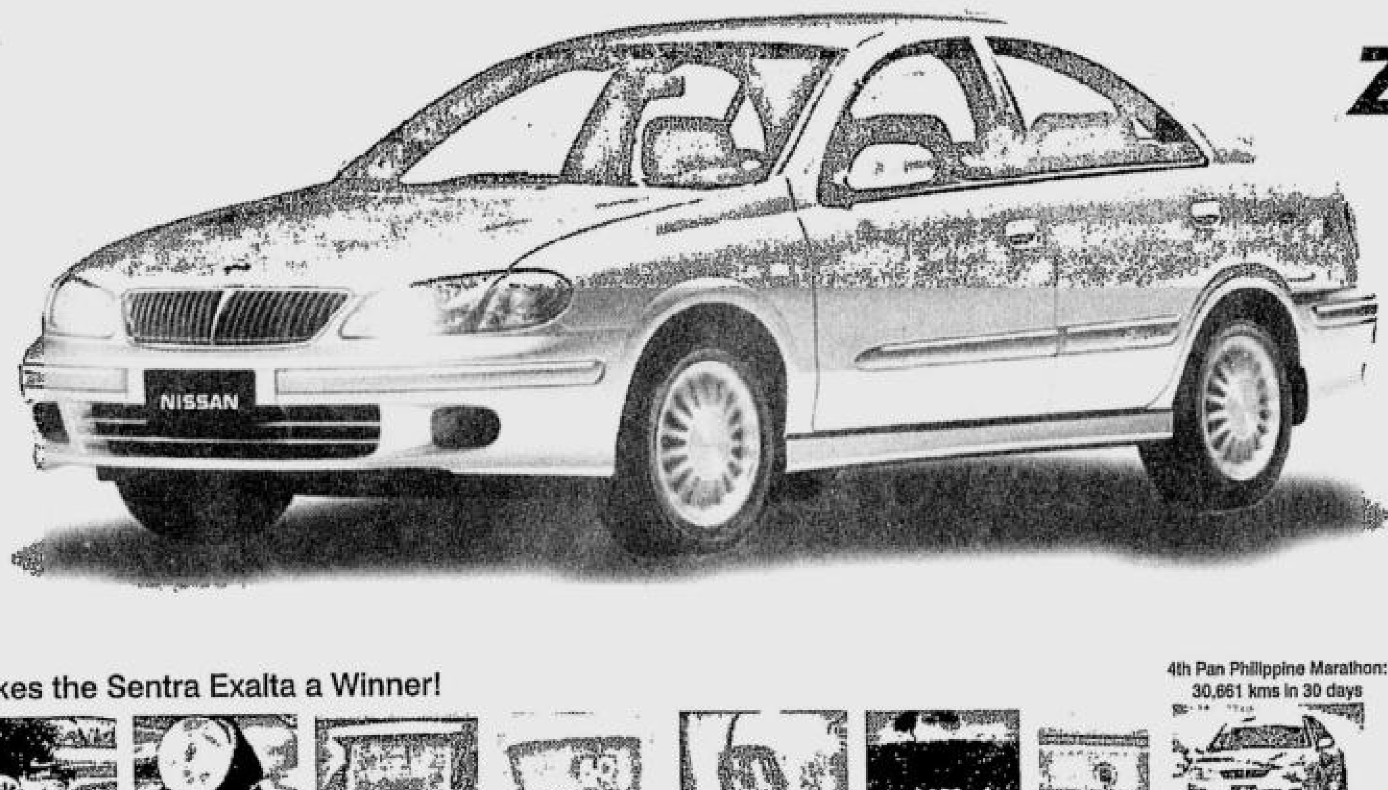

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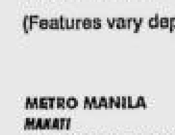

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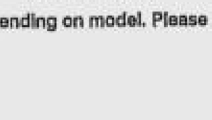

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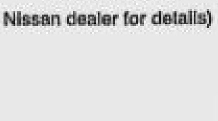

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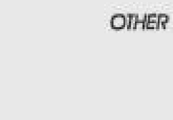

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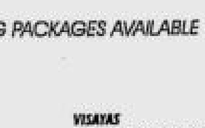

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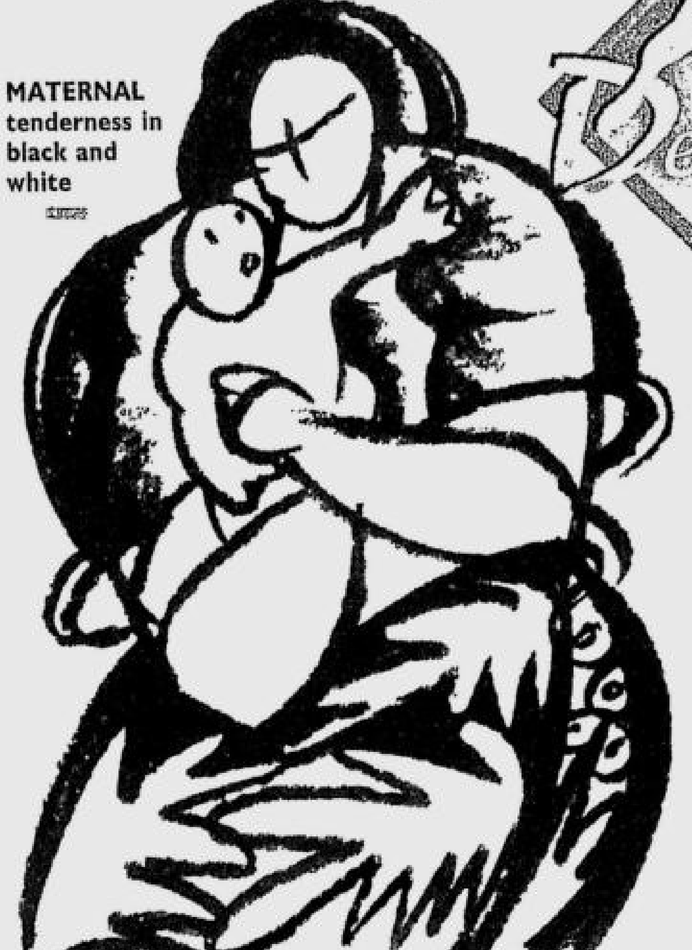
Arts Design LIFESTYLE

INSIDE
Can art be as familiar as Colgate and Frigidaire? / E4



MATERNAL tenderness in black and white

Carlos Trinidad's raw and robust Mother and Child

THE MOTHER and Child has been a well-loved subject by artists all over the world—from Boticelli to Raphael, who interpreted the "Madonna and Child" in romanticized versions.

"*Meme na Bunso Ko:* The Filipino Mother and Child" is Carlos Trinidad's tribute to the Filipino mother who is nonpareil in giving all of herself in nurturing her child.

CARLOS/ p.E2

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NOVEMBER - DECEMBER COOKING SCHEDULE

Nov. 20, Wednesday, 9 – 1 pm A TURKEY DINNER Learn how to brine and inject a turkey for more flavor, Served with a choice of Spinach- Shitake Bread Stuffing with Shitake Mushroom Gravy and Herbed Oyster Stuffing. Maple Glazed Carrots, Pecan Pie P 1,200 plus P 200 for Ingredients

Nov. 20, Wednesday, 2 –5 pm HAM MAKING Learn how to cure, cook and glaze your own ham for the holidays. Completely Hands-On with individual take home

P 1,800 + 400 for ingredients (Pork pigue, Injection and spices)

Bonus: Crystal Grapes for presentation.

Nov. 21, Thursday, 9 am - 2 pm YEAST DOUGHS Learn how to make Special Ensaimadas for Christmas (with cheese and Ube Filling), Pan de Sal, Dinner Rolls and Pear Walnut Bread P 1,200

Nov. 22, Friday, 9am - 1 pm FRUITCAKES It's not too late to learn our special Family recipe for making the Traditional Fruitcake and the Semolina Fruitcake P 2,200

Nov. 23, Saturday, 9 am – 1 pm BASIC BAKING 1 - A HANDS ON class for students to learn the basics of baking from the proper way of measuring ingredients to the presentation of the finished product! Chiffon Cake Coffee Crunch Cake, Sponge Cake: Strawberry and White Chocolate Trifle, Rich Butter Cake. Pie Crust. American Apple Pie P 1,200 Next Lesson: Nov. 29, Friday, 9 am – 1 pm

Nov. 23, Saturday, 2 –5 pm Italian Cooking with young Chef Jay Trillo – Part 1 Bruschetta with Tomatoes and Basil, Seafood Pasta, Clam Risotto, Potato Gnocchi, Perfect Panna Cotta P 900

Nov. 25, Monday 2 – 5pm BAKESHOP FAVOURITES Ideal for gift giving! Lengua de Gato, Maple-Pecan Cinnamon Rolls, Pampango Taison, Apple Upside Down Cake P 850

Nov. 26, Tuesday, 9 – 12 nn BARS AND COOKIES 1 Mississippi Mudcake Bars Russian Tea Cookies, Chocolate Chip Cookies, Chocolate Crinkles, Pistachio Meringues P 900

Nov. 27, Wednesday, 9 am – 12 nn BAKING 4 Carrot Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting, Rum Pound Cake, Tiramisu, Baklava P 1000

Nov. 27, Wednesday, 2 –5 pm BROWNIES GALORE 2 – 5pm Chocolate Cheesecake Brownies, Cappuccino Brownies, Kahlua Brownies, Chocolate Fudge Brownies, White Chocolate Pecan Brownies P 1,200

Nov. 28, Thursday, 9 am-1 pm BAKING 5 Ube Cake, Original Pandan Cake, Mango Cake, Strawberry Shortcake P 1,200

Nov. 28, Thursday, 2-5 pm BARS AND COOKIES 2 (NEW) Perfect Lemon Squares, Holiday Sandwiched Cookies with different fillings, Peanut Butter Cream Tart, Molasses Crinkles, Maple Walnut Butter Cookies P 900

Nov. 30, Saturday, 9 am – 1 pm BASIC BAKING 2 Baking with Frostings and Icings Brownie Cake with Chocolate Sour Cream Frosting. Apple Walnut Cake with Creamy Caramel Frosting, Chocolate Decadent Cake with Chocolate Fudge Icing and Caramel Sauce, Maple Walnut Cake with Fluffy White Frosting P 1,200

Nov. 30, Saturday, 2 – 5 pm PASTAS AND MORE! Learn how to make Homemade Pasta. Basic Tomato Sauce, Linguini Carbonara, Spaghetti Putanesca, Lasagne, Seafood Pasta, Penne a la Vodka P 900

Dec. 2, Monday, 10 am – 2 pm BAKING 3 Toblerone Cake, Cream Puffs, Eclairs, Profiteroles, Chocolate Mousse, Croissant and Apple Pudding, Empanadas con Camote y Pina P 1,200

Dec. 3, Tuesday, 10: 30am – 3 pm A Christmas Meal Oyster Stew, Festive Roast Pork with Cornbread Apple Dressing Special Macaroni and Cheese, Butterhorn Rolls, Fruit Pavlova P 550

Dec. 4, Wednesday, 9 – 1 pm ASIAN COOKING 1 Hainanese Chicken Rice, Vietnamese Spring Rolls, Spicy Kangkong, Chili Crab, Claypot Chicken Rice, Peking Candied Apples P 1,200

Dec. 4, Wednesday, 2 – 5 pm Italian Cooking with young Chef Jay Trillo – Part 2 Osso Bucco, Risotto Milanese, Chicken Breast with Prosciutto, Sabayon with Assorted Fruits P 900

Dec. 5, Tuesday, 10:30 am – 3 pm PIES and CHEESECAKES Apple Pie with Streusel, Blueberry Cheesecake, No Bake Cheesecake, Oreo Cheesecake, Quiche Lorraine P 1,200

Dec. 6, Friday, 2 – 5 pm BAKING 9 Viennese Chocolate Carrot Cake, Swiss Zigomar Cake with Rum Butter Filling & Frosting, Mango Tart P 900

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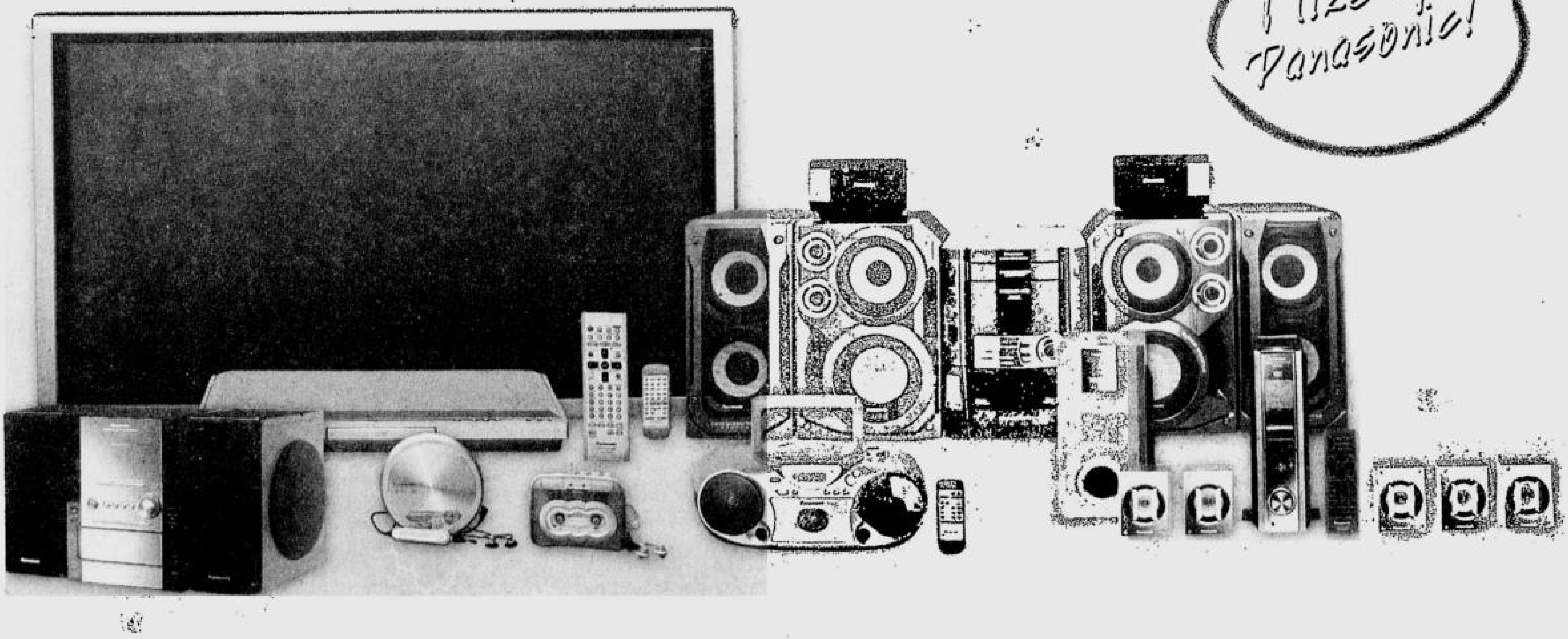
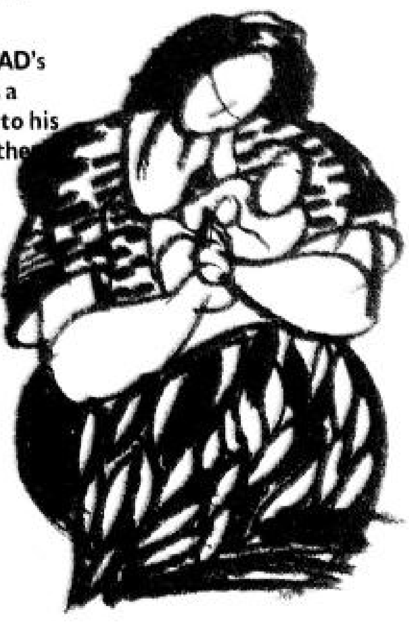




TRINIDAD's series is a tribute to his late mothe

Carlos Trinidad's raw and robust Mother and Child

From page E1

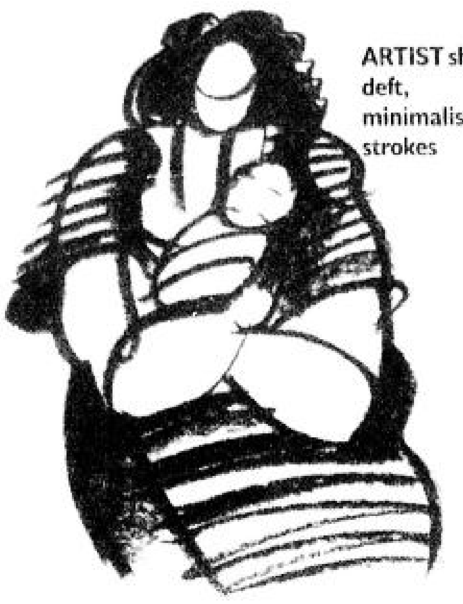
It is also a tribute to Trinidad's own mother, who recently passed away after suffering a second stroke. "It's as though a part of me died, too." In life, he said his mother had so much spunk and was very solicitous to her children. She and the artist shared a special bond which he tries to capture in his drawings. "I couldn't say it in words; I could only visualize it."

That is why, for Trinidad, the most vivid and concrete portrait of a mother's love is when she puts her baby to sleep. It is always a moving ritual of love—she carries her child to her bosom, cuddles her close to her heart, and like an angel, she hums a lullaby—"*Meme na Bunso Ko*"- –so her precious one can dream sweet dreams.

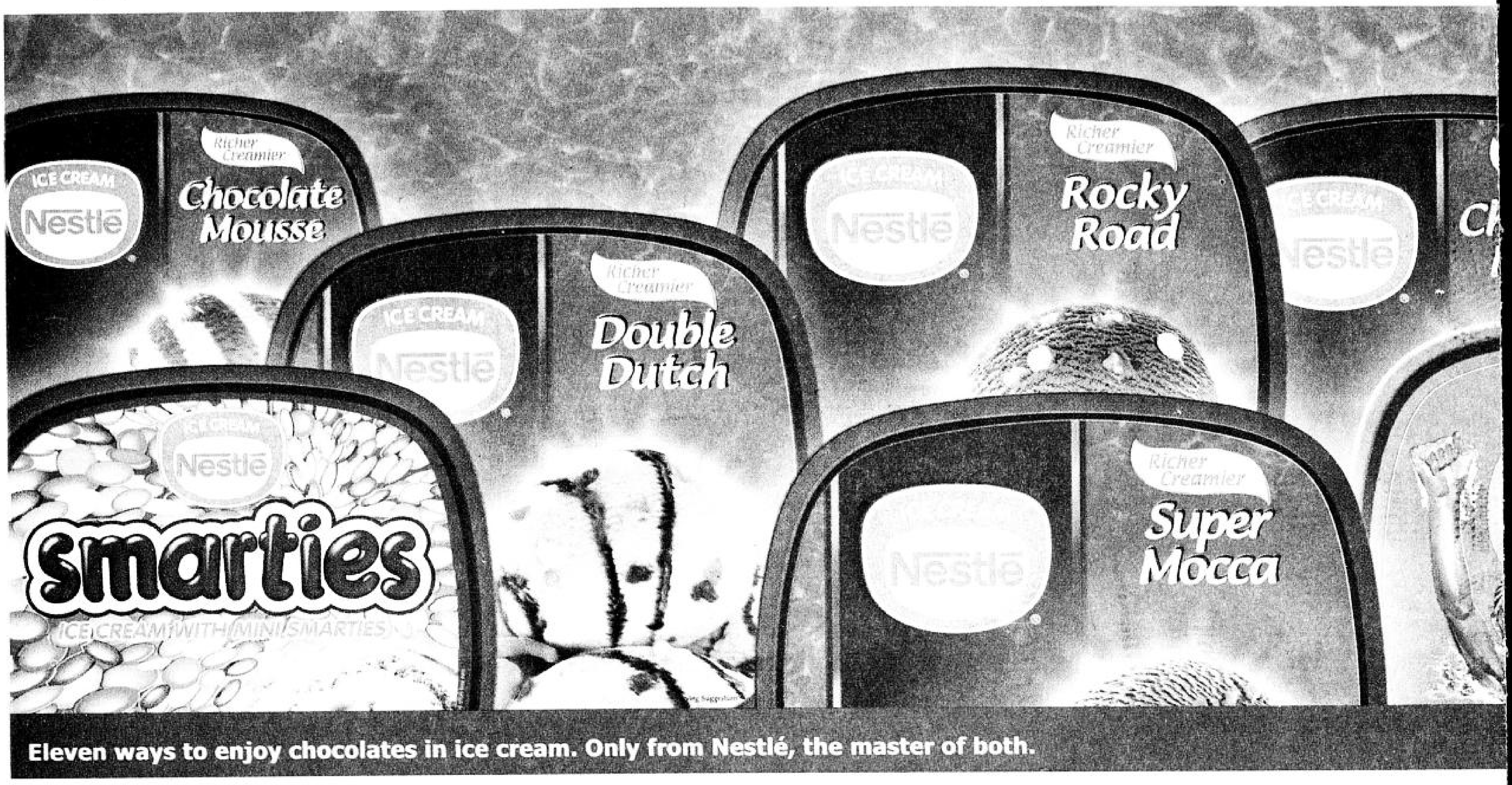
Lyrical

This unity of spirit between the mother and her child is what Trinidad lyrically portrays in his collection of charcoal drawings. His interpretation of a mother is unabashedly Pinoy—she wears native costume or duster, the uniforms of the mothers of old and today.

CARLOS/p.E3



ARTIST shows deft, minimalist strokes



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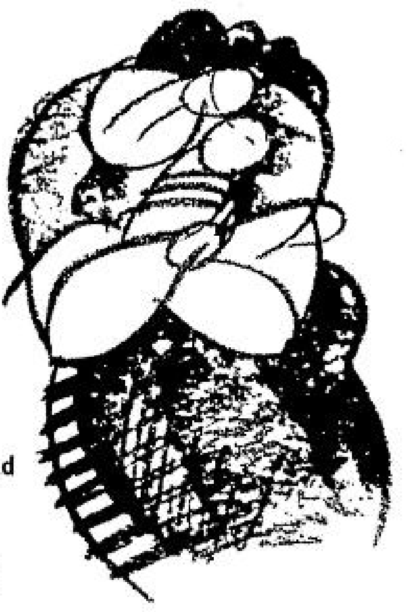
Carlos Trinidad's raw and robust . . .

From page E2



LINES and curves express warmth, affection

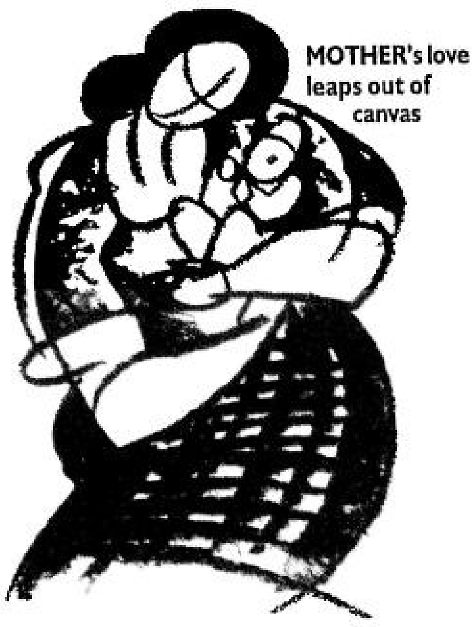
By Trinidad's lines and curves, we experience warmth and affection, bordering on overzealousness. Trinidad's mothers are almost mannish, muscled and oversized—strong in body and arms, the better to protect her child (small, innocent and defenseless) from any harm, even from a tiny insect bite.

Trinidad purposely shunned any burst of colors or sunlight so as to dramatize the basic, raw and sentimental emotion of motherhood and domesticity. In bold continuous strokes, Trinidad interprets the mother as a warrior, a sentry, a bodyguard and a bouncer—rolled into one—for the protection of her child. His drawings are symbolic, yet realistic in the many wonderful feelings they evoke.

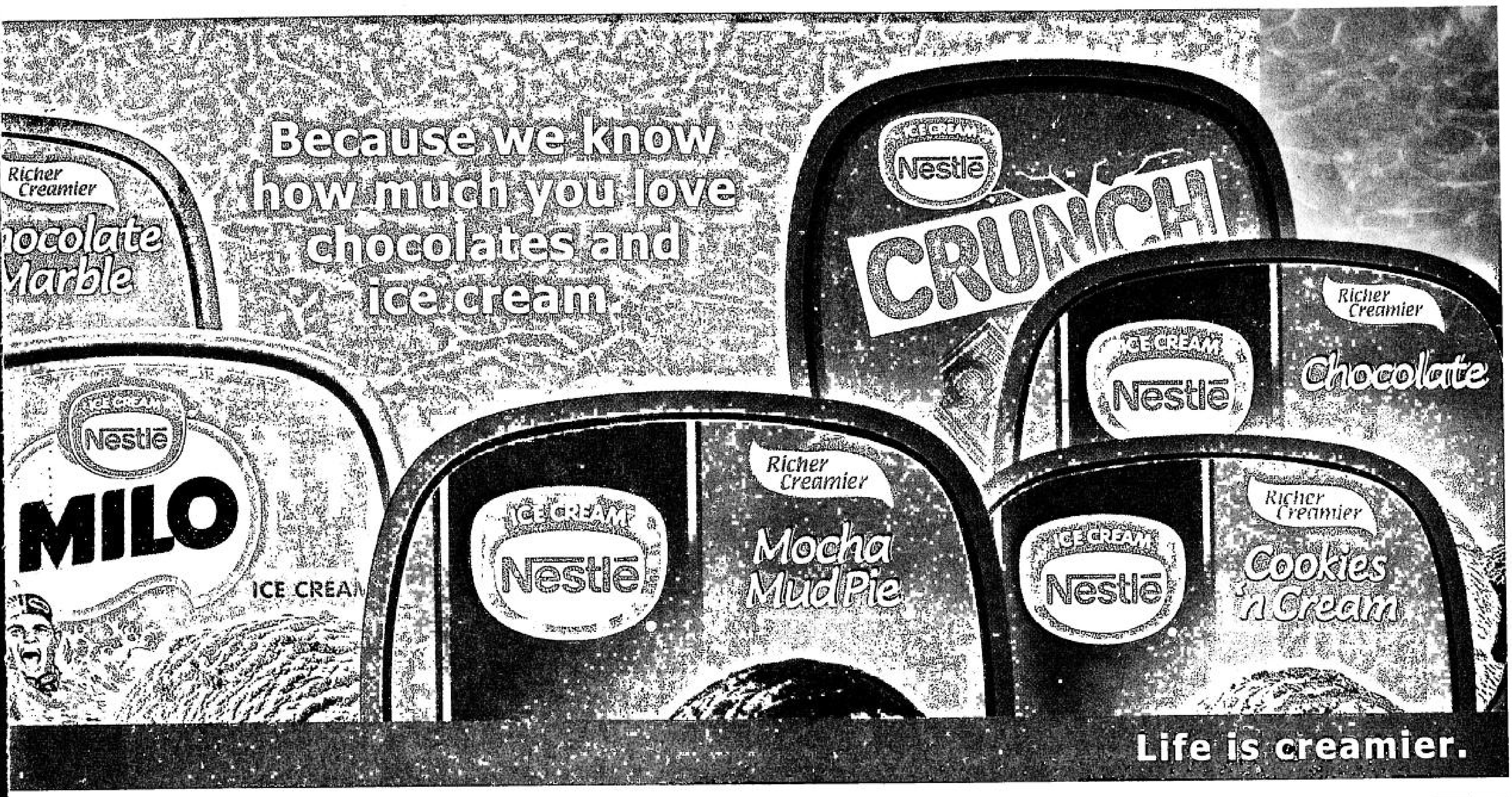
The subject of maternity has endured and will continue to endure forever. Artists then and now will always find a treasury of loving experiences between a mother and her child—as Trinidad did.

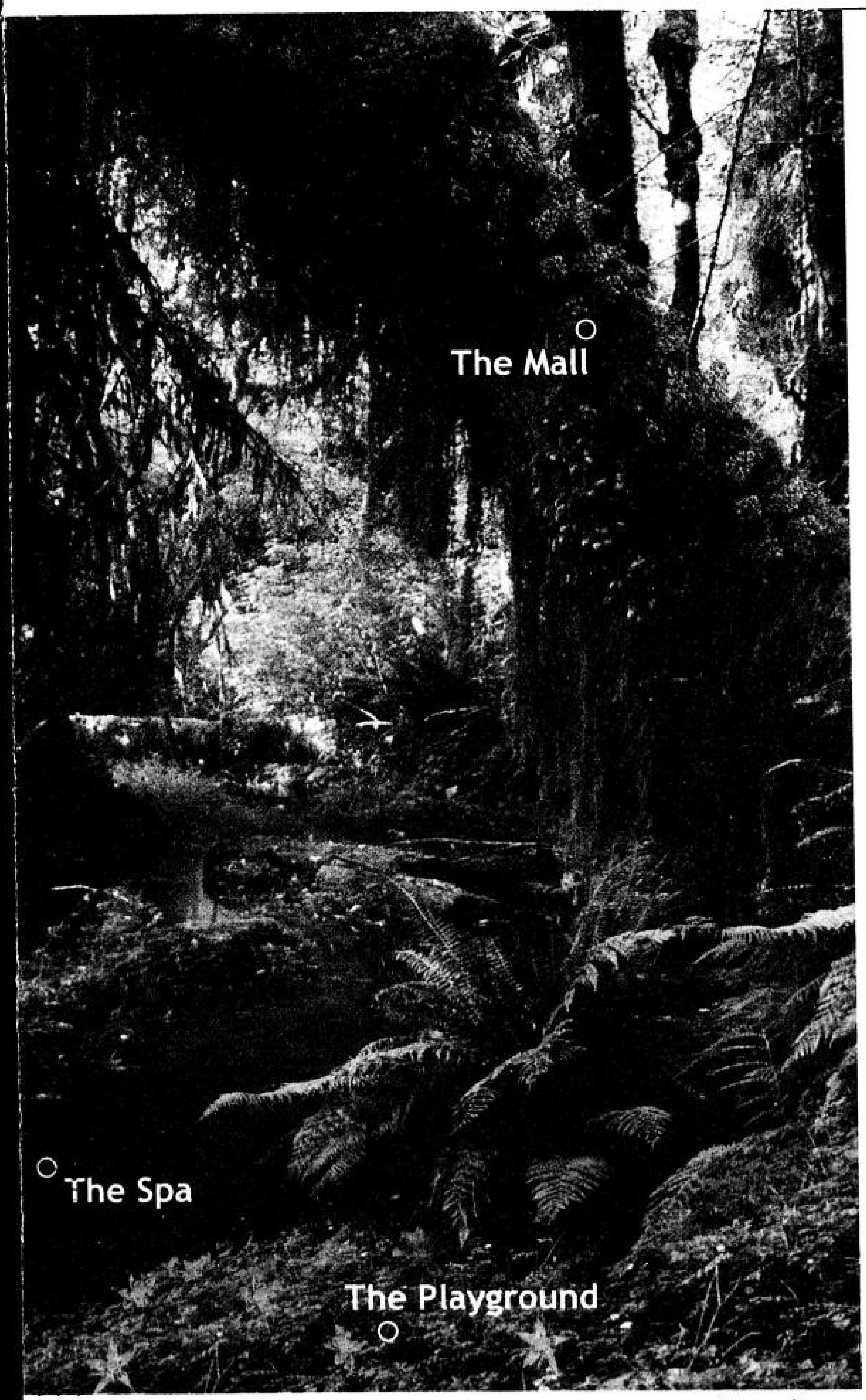
He proves to us once again that a mother's love for her child will always leap out of a canvas into our hearts where they will be felt deeply. His black-and-white renditions make us recognize the magic and wholeness of unconditional love. And they hold us captive.

Carlos Trinidad's "Meme na Bunso Ko" runs at the Heritage Art Gallery (4/L, Art Walk, SM Megamall) from Nov. 18-26. Call 634-2436 or 874-4701. Email carlostrinidad52@yahoo.com.



MOTHER's love leaps out of canvas





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Our first project is Verdana Homes at the border of Las Piñas and Bacoor. Developed for the urban achievers, Verdana Homes has become a milestone for them in their continuing quest for success.

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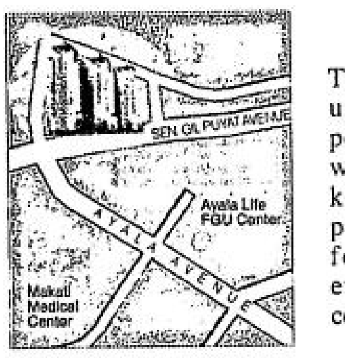
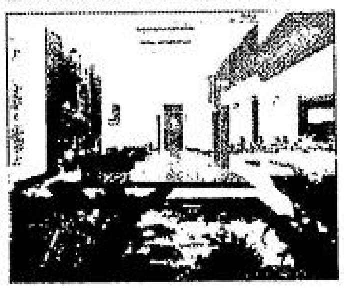
THREE NEW BUILDINGS

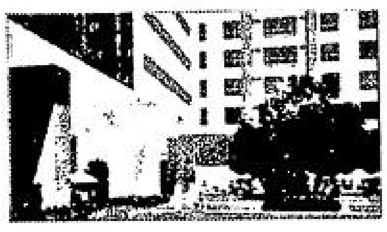
Now we plan to embark on a brand-new venture: our first vertical development, a three-tower condominium complex within Makati's central business district.

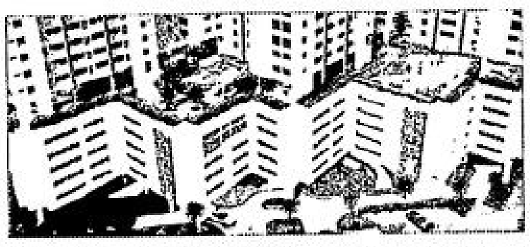
Christened The Columns, Ayala Avenue, our newest baby will rise at the corner of Ayala and Sen. Gil J. Puyat (Buendia) Avenues. Each tower will have 30 storeys, 23 of which will be dedicated solely to residences.





The towers will rise upon a vast single podium whose deck will feature adult and kiddie swimming pools, function rooms for meetings and events, a gym/fitness center and jogging path for the health buff, a game room with mini-home theater system for hanging out with friends, and a daycare center with both indoor and outdoor play area for kids. There will be an outdoor barbecue area for the family and meditation alcoves to nurture your souls. Residents' guests can take advantage of rooms set aside specifically for them, almost like a hotel.





Another feature unique to The Columns, Ayala Avenue, the ground level will house an inviting mix of landscaped plazas, cafes, and outdoor dining, ideal for unwinding after a day's work.

The first home of young urban achievers, a relaxing oasis in the middle of everything, The Columns, Ayala Avenue will be the ideal place to *"live a few steps away from everything."*

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Can art be as familiar as Colgate and Frigidaire?

By Lito B. Zulueta

NONA Garcia's lamp made from x-ray film

ART WITH A TWIST. Bobby Castillo's "Ilang-ilang earrings," kiln-formed glass light fixtures of stainless steel

IS ART appreciation as disinterested as Immanuel Kant would have it to be? Is art its own excuse for being? Does art achieve its purpose in non-purpose? Does utility lessen or corrupt the value of art?

These questions are rhetorical as far as a new exhibit at The Drawing Room is concerned. Set to open on Nov. 23, "Household Names" exalts art that is usable and functional. And we are not talking about canvases here—the kind you hang to prettify your living room. The usables on exhibit include salt and peppershakers, sushi trays, lamps, trays and benches. Over all, they represent function, before nature; value before art. They are bound to get raves from your guests who may think twice of ever using them lest their artistry be marred or damaged.

The exhibit examines art as product or object that is either function or decorative, says Ana P. Labrador, the curator of the UP Jorge Vargas Museum and Filipiniana Research Center who is organizing the Drawing Room show. "My challenge. . . is to encourage gallery viewers to purchase them for home use."

In this connection, the title refers literally to artists becoming household names. "Once taken home," Labrador says, "perhaps the art objects in the Filipino household can make the artist's name well known. Much like brand names that became synonymous with products such as Frigidaire (refrigerator) and Colgate (toothpaste), artists may be deemed synonymous with a particular type of art object."

Labrador says there's also an ironic sense to the title. The irony perhaps in the tension that comes when a work stamped with an artist's name sits side by side with grocery brands and other familiars. An artistic sellout, indeed.

Surprise

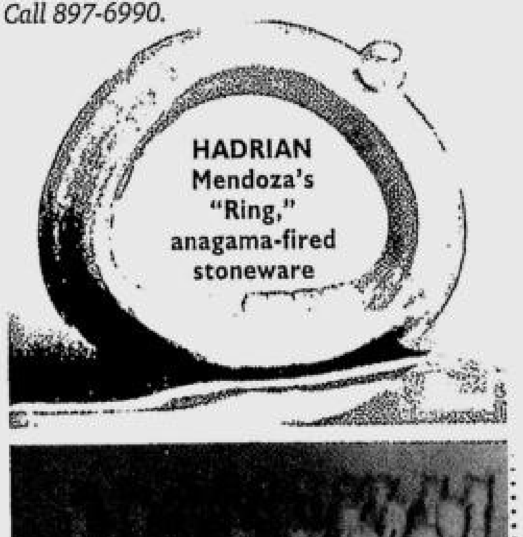
But before the sellout, there's the surprise. Recycle sculptor Eng Chan has made benches out of auto parts and aged wood, and wall clocks made of round steel trays. Glass sculptor Bobby Castillo tests the limits of glass by making kiln-cast glass lamps, glass serving plates and kiln-formed salt and peppershakers. Nona Garcia continues her romance with x-ray film with clinical and uncanny free-standing laps made out of, well, x-ray film.

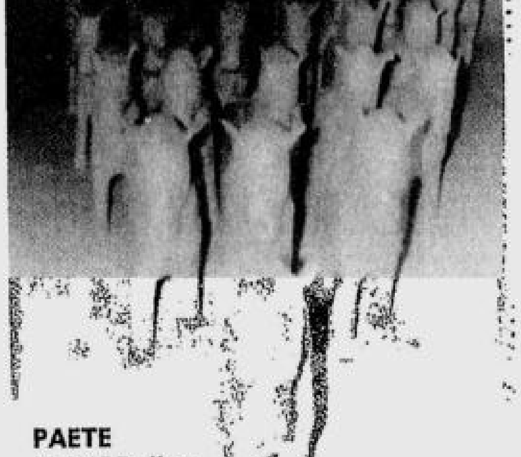
Potter Hadrian Mendoza has made stoneware sushi trays and anagama-fired clay sculptures. Handmade paper maker Estela Ocampo has crafted delightful washi paper lamps and mobiles. Illustrator and book and set designer Ikoy Ricio has produced 100 papier mache horses inspired by the Paete taka style (they look like the Chinese terracotta army in miniature).

Perhaps the biggest surprise is young Christopher Manalang's religious images carved in soap. Mendoza's conceit is perhaps the best example of artistic utility. In one fell swoop, the works achieve physical and spiritual cleansing. They are extremely useful either for the one praying to the images or the one using them for bathing—or both.

Labrador does not see anything wrong with The Drawing Room displaying and selling art much like a grocery displaying and selling goods. "The idea," she says, " is to sell the art-with-a-twist to as many people as possible. We hope to tap into the art collectors' acquisitive mood just before the Christmas season."

"Household Names" opens at The Drawing Room (Metrostar Bldg., Metropolitan Ave., Makati City) on Nov. 23. It runs until Dec. 11. Call 897-6990.


HADRIAN Mendoza's "Ring," anagama-fired stoneware


PAETE FLAVOR. Ikoy Ricio's folky papier mache horses

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CAGAYAN DE ORO

Rep's 'Christmas Carol' brings back the horrors—and lessons—of Scrooge

SCROOGE gets straightened out

By Cora Llamas
Contributor

EBENEZER Scrooge. Forever immortalized by the Charles Dickens classic "A Christmas Carol," the infamous name has become synonymous with penny-pinching and cruel miserliness. Thousands who've never read the book will immediately recognize the reference. It conjures up images of a crusty old man, forever haunted by his ghosts, whose cold heart wouldn't allow him to part with even just a penny from his treasure chest to aid a dying, starving child.

What many people don't know is that the character used to have a human, softer side—and that he was redeemed at the end, thanks to the ghosts who appeared in the nick of time to give him a second chance, and not to lynch him for his sins.

Hopefully, this message will ring loud and clear in Repertory Philippines' Yuletide presentation, "Scrooge—The Musical," Leslie Bricusse's musical adaptation of the famous Dickens' tale. The musical enjoyed a run in

REP'S/ p.F3

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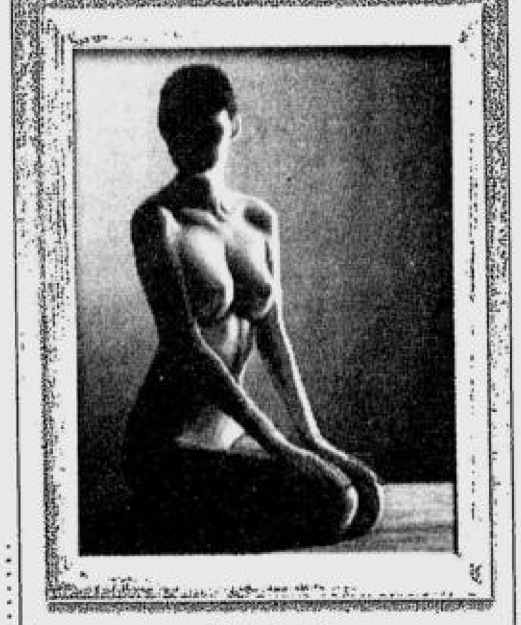

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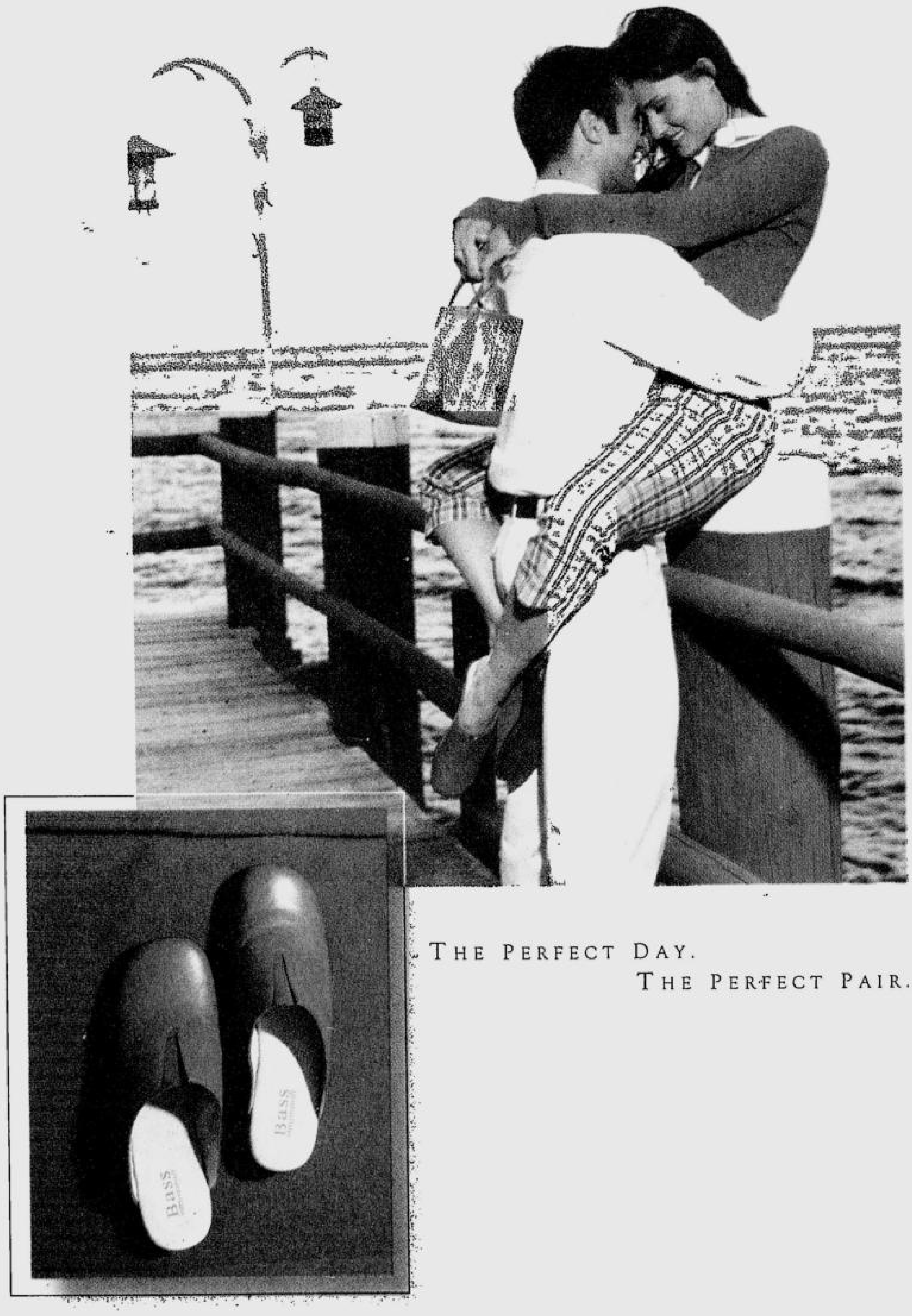

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Classical music fires up the Ilocos

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

CECILE Licad rejoins the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra under Ruggero Barbieri tonight at the CCP in a performance of Rachmaninoff Variations on a Theme by Paganini.

Licad is expected to uncover new layers of interpretation to the piece and connect with the Italian musical agenda of the Philippine-Italian Association, organizer of the concert.

On Wednesday, Licad flies to Northern Luzon for her debut in Cagayan Valley at the Mother Madeleine Hall of St. Paul University in Tuguegarao City for an evening of Schubert, Liszt and Chopin.

This is the third time Licad is venturing into Northern Luzon. In 1988, Licad closed the First Baguio International Music Festival (Otoniel Gonzaga opened it). Last June, she performed for the music lovers of Laoag City and Paoay town. For the first time on Thursday, Tuguegarao City will see and hear the country's most celebrated pianist.

Tuguegarao City was actually awash with classical music in the last three months. Last September, NAMCYA winner Oliver Salonga astounded both the old and the young in Cagayan in an evening of Beethoven, Mendelssohn and Chopin. Last Tuesday again at the Mother Madeleine Hall of St. Paul University, tenor Lemuel de la Cruz with pianist Najib Ismail and flutist Agustina de la Luna Deyro received a wild standing ovation at the end of the concert.

In an evening of Italian (Bellini), Spanish (Sandoval, De Falla, Ponce and Lara) and Filipino art songs, Lemuel de la Cruz showed vocal artistry of the highest and the most refined variety, touching off an audience euphoria not seen and heard in Cagayan in many years.

Commented Sister Nicole de Marie P. Dabalus, SPC, head of the Music and Culture department of St. Paul University: "(De la Cruz) gave us a magnificent vocal projection: filling all the empty spaces of the hall, disturbing every atom and setting all into motion. Similarly, his rendition set our hearts to motion, urging us to put love in a loveless world. For who can live in a world intoned in Sandoval's "Sin tu amor?" Those allargandos in De Falla's Tus ojillos negros told us that God's eyes are deeper than those black eyes of the world. De la Cruz's timber is so well-articulated in the forceful "Granada" by Lara. It left all our eyes and ears glued on him. The rendition of his subito piano was so uplifting and left us in an amazed suspension. His controlled mezzo piano in Ponce's "Estrellita" ending with a vocal glissando made me realize that life at times brings us to a plateau of suspended animation preparing us for a glisssando of joy and sorrow. His rendition of both Tagalog and Ilocano songs gave us a challenge that really, we should build the future by respecting and preserving the past musical heritage of the Filipino."

Marvelous

Flutist Agustina de la Luna Deyro, who was marvelous in the Traviata Concertwaltzer (Verdi arranged by Wilhelm Popp), also got her share of ecstatic accolade.

Noted Sister Nicole: "The music of flutist Agustina Deyro gave us a taste of the music of the angels—the sweet gentle music that passes us like a breeze. Her rendition of Verdi's "La Traviata" gave us the legato that conveyed the message of close connectedness that can build society: a society of the conglomeration of notes and the society of people. She topped it all when she brought us to the arms of our mother in San Pedro's "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan." In her performance, God spoke to us in a merging of God, parents, children and music. Thank you, Lemuel, Agustina and Najib, for showing us once more the greatness of our God."

It was one concert were everyone was humming Lara's "Granada" and "D'Handelot's."

By coincidence, De la Cruz is an Ilocano from Pangasinan and I think it is fair to remind music lovers that the Ilocano stands far and proud in the world of the performing arts.

Lemuel Dela Cruz
PRIZE WINNER
Music Competition for Young Artists
Song Recital
with
Ismail piano
la Luna Dey

FLUTIST Agustina De la Luna Deyro, tenor Lemuel de la Cruz, Najib Ismail with St. Paul University president Sister Mary Angela Barrios, SPC.

The first known Filipino violinist—before Oscar Yatco, Basilio Manalo, Sergio Esmilla, Jr. and Redentor Romero—was an Ilocano. His name was Manuel Luna, who received the title Professor de Violino from the Conservatory of Madrid in 1879 and later gave concerts in Spain, France and Italy.

The first Filipino conductor to lead the Moscow Symphony in a stirring performance of Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony in the winter of 1974 was an Ilocano from Laoag City: Redentor Romero.

The first and the last Filipino to sing at the New York Metropolitan Opera and the first and the last to appear with Placido Domingo in a full-length opera (Meyerbeer's L' Africaine) was a genuine Ilocana from Ilocos Sur: Evelyn Mandac.

The first and the last Filipino winner of the Luciano Pavarotti International Voice Competitions was an Ilocano from Echague, Isabela: Noel Velasco, now based abroad.

I recall these great Ilocano artists to justify my attempt to promote classical music in Northern Luzon starting in the mid-'80s when I accompanied pianist Rowena Arrieta (who placed fifth in the 1982 Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow) in her first concerts in Santiago, Isabela and Baguio City.

Because of the Arrieta concerts, I became bold enough to organize the 1988 First Baguio International Music Festival opened by no less than Filipino tenor Otoniel Gonzaga, who had impressed Placido Domingo in a performance of Rigoletto in Hamburg. That Baguio festival closed with no less than Cecile Licad and Tchaikovsky gold medalist Antonio Meneses.

After Licad, I brought Polish pianist Nina Lelchuk, winner of the Chopin International Piano Competition, in the modest Dap-ayan Hall in Baguio City.

Beethoven in Ilagan

In May of 2000, I found myself in Ilagan, Isabela and because of the court case of my daughter, Kerima, and I had to go back there interminably for two years. So I had the chance to bring classical musicians to the North such as tenor Gary del Rosario, soprano Alegria Ferrer, flutist GJ Herman Gomez, pianists Nita Abrogar Quinto and J. Greg Zuniega, the American cellist Angela Lee and the Russian violinist Anastacia Chebotareva.

Before that I had discovered that Msgr. Sergio L. Utleg, Bishop of Ilagan (he actually hails from Tuguegarao), was himself a musician and kept music scores of Beethoven sonatas in his bodega. On the nights I stayed in his Ilagan residence, I was not only sheltered and fed but also treated to a recording of Beethoven sonatas played by Alfred Brendel.

CECILE Licad plays Liszt and Chopin in Cagayan

Since Bishop Utleg was a Beethoven fan, I made sure there was a Beethoven sonata in the repertoire of my Isabela concerts. The good Bishop initiated fund-raising concerts for the churches in San Antonio (in Ilagan) and San Isidro near Santiago City and found himself accompanying the Filipino tenor and the Russian violinist in one of those concerts.

I had never thought of Cagayan as a concert destination until lawyer Carmelo Lasam and his wife, Edith, invited me to visit their Tuguegarao home along Taft Street.

The Lasam home, which had an upright piano, was a perfect place for house concerts.

When I planned another Isabela concert with Ingrid Sala Santamaria and Reynaldo Reyes, someone asked why I was bypassing Tuguegarao. I said I didn't know anyone in the place aside from my newly-found Chopin-loving lawyer-friend.

Pilar Pobre Cusi, a native of Tuguegarao but now based in Cebu, called Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan who promised to host Santamaria and Reyes. With just a few days before the Isabela concert, I found myself returning to Tuguegarao to check the concert venue.

The timing for the Tuguegarao debut of Ingrid and Reynaldo was perfect because St. Paul University had a brand-new concert hall called the Mother Madeleine Hall and the acoustics was excellent.

And so the Cagayanos heard their first hometown Grieg and Tchaikovsky concertos in Tuguegarao in July 2001 and savored a full piano recital in September this year courtesy of Oliver Salonga.

And so Cecile Licad plays Liszt and Chopin for the first time in Cagayan. I share Sister Nicole's optimism about a new beginning for the arts and culture in the Northern Philippines.

For tickets to the Nov. 21 Tuguegarao City concert of Cecile Licad, call (078) 844-1863 loc. 143 and look for Maribel, or text or call 0918-7376901.

More Filipino students now in the UK

Thames International Business School delivers its promise

Studying abroad for college was an unreachable dream for most Filipinos mainly because of the high cost. Three years ago, however, Thames International Business School opened its doors in the Philippines to provide students easier access to a foreign degree. To date, more than 30 Filipinos are now finishing their final college years in the United Kingdom after doing their initial two years in the Thames campus in Manila.

Below is the list of some of the students who left last September for the UK:

University of Hertfordshire:
John Pacific Castro
(BA Business Management)
Ieleen Elizabeth dela Cruz
(BA Business Joint Honors)
Marcaine Ng
(BA Business Administration)
John Joseph Perez
(BA Marketing)
Shaina Regina (BA Marketing)
Alvin Tan (BA Marketing)
University of Portsmouth:
Jojan Juson
(BSc Honors Business IT)
Eleazar Lampa
(BSc Honors Business IT)
Ma. Theresa Leung
(BSc Honors Business IT)
Jeremy Ngaw
(BSc Honors Business IT)
Jenny Ong
(BSc Honors Business IT)
Kerri Gail Ong
(BSc Honors Business IT)
Abigail Peñalosa
(BSc Honors Business IT)
Jedfrey Tan
(BSc Honors Business IT)
Oxford Brookes University:
Melvin Gaw (BA Business and Management)
Anwillsun So
(BA Business Management)
University of Plymouth:
Gamaliel Gabriento
BSc (Honors) Business IT.
Middlesex University:
Mark Seng
BA (Honors) Marketing with Management.

Aside from acquiring a high-quality and reputable degree, the experience of studying in the UK is also helping the next generation of Filipino leaders grow personally and acquire an international perspective.

"I feel I've gone a radical step further down the road of independence," is how Mark Seng describes the experience of studying abroad. "When I was studying in Manila, I only experienced college life to a limited degree and I had all the creature comforts I needed. But now, everything's different. I'm far from family, friends and all things familiar and the only lifeline that connects me to them is a credit card, a telephone and the Internet. I also do household chores by myself and the most exciting part is that I get to go around town and meet new and interesting people in the process and I like it," Mark enthuses.

As for Gamaliel Gabriento, he says that he is proud of how foreigners marvel at how Filipinos speak English fluently. "My Czech, Italian and Indian friends were all surprised that I speak English so well. They're like, 'Wow! You have good English!'" says Gamaliel. He adds that one time at class, his professor even remarked that he speaks English much better than the British since some don't know the correct rules of grammar. "It sounds ridiculous, but it's true," says Gamaliel, "and after what the professor said, I think my feet were no longer on the ground."

John Pacific Castro on the other hand, is pleased that he has learned new things in life—cooking being one of them. "I already know how to make pasta and boil eggs but I am still working on my salpicao and tapa," he says. "I haven't done any laundry yet though, because I still don't know how to. We're also trying to learn the complicated bus and train schedule around this area."

"I couldn't last a year like this! I should go back!" These were the initial thoughts of Ieleen Elizabeth dela Cruz upon arriving in Heathrow Airport but things rapidly changed in just a few days. She explains, "After a while, I got settled in and we went to London for some sightseeing, we went underground for the tube and I was happy to have finally seen Big Ben, Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace and the House of Parliament. It was very fun and I very much liked the experience," says Ieleen.

More Thames students are leaving for the UK and Australia by the first quarter of next year to join their friends who went ahead. The Thames system of education that allows students to take their first two years of college at Thames in the Philippines before transferring abroad is really making the dream of getting a foreign degree achievable for more Filipinos.

For more details, contact the Thames International Business School at 687-4736 to 37 or email inquire@thamesintl.com. You can also visit the Thames Campus in Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City.

SOME THAMES STUDENTS IN THE UK** Clockwise, from extreme left: **Kerri Gail Ong, Jojan Juson, Theresa Leung, Jeremy Ngaw, PJ Castro, Gail Gabriento, Jenny Ong, Magic Samia, Abby Peñalosa, JJ Perez.

ADVT

Music research conference in UST, UP

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines (UP) College of Music and the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Conservatory of Music, in cooperation with the UST Center for Intercultural Studies, is holding a conference on "Historical Musicology in the Philippines: The State of the Art" on Nov. 18 at the UST Thomas Aquinas Research Complex, and on Nov. 25 at the UP Abelardo Mini Hall.

It coincides with the first meeting of the Musicological Society of the Philippines, a non-profit organization for the promotion and advancement of music research in all its subfields in the country.

On the morning of Nov. 18, William Summers of Dartmouth College and David Irving of the University of Queensland will talk about extant music manuscripts, specifically instrumental music parts (partituras), that have survived in the archives of the UST.

In the afternoon, UST faculty members will discuss the condition of music and musicians during the Japanese occupation. Julie Ann Hallazgo focuses on the experience of musicians in Manila; Ma. Alexandra Chua on church music during the Japanese Occupation; and Eugene de los Santos on musical theater and other forms of entertainment during the said period.

A lecture on the Filipino concerto since 1945 by the Dean of the UST Conservatory of Music, Dr. Raul Sunico, will also be held on Nov. 18.

On the morning of Nov. 25, a third panel will deal with music in cross-cultural encounters: Genesis Rivera, M.D., on the first Tagalog opera by composer Ladislao Bonus entitled "Sangdugong Panaginip" or "The Dreamed Alliance" (1902); Akin Tan on music institutions in Manila during the 1930s; Mary Talusan of the University of California at Los Angeles on the ideology of music brought by the Americans at the turn of the century; and Jose Buenconsejo on rites of friendship in Mindanao Island.

In the afternoon, Elena Mirano will talk on the late 19th century composer Marcelo Adonay as a ladino; Melissa Mantaring on songs performed in Catholic devotional rituals; Patricia Silvestre on the music in Intramuros and Quiapo at the turn of the century; and Edna Martinez on the life and works of composer Antonino Buenaventura.

The conference is open to the public, call UST at 731-3101 loc. 8340 or fax 740-9716. Or UP at 920-5301 loc. 4376.

Printmaking contest at the CCP

THE PHILIPPINE Association of Printmakers is calling on professional and non-professional printmakers to join the PAP Open Fine Prints Competition 2002

At stake for first prize is P20,000 and a table top etching press; second prize, P15,000; and third prize P10,000. Three honorable mentions will get P5,000 each.

Eligible printmaking techniques include etching, drypoint, collograph, rubbercut, woodcut, serigraph (silkscreen), lithograph and other techniques that may be produced in an edition. Exceptions are monotype and monoprint.

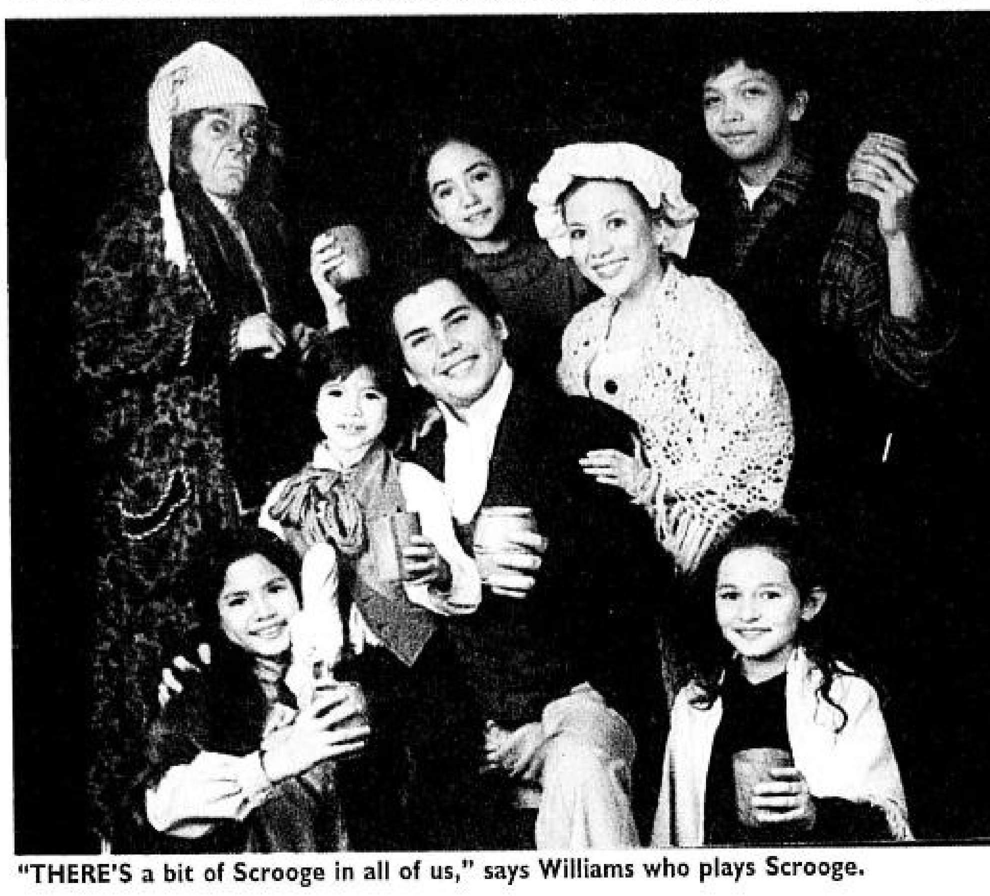
Submission of entries is on Nov. 29 and 30 at the CCP Visual Arts Office from 1-5 p.m. Entries will be on exhibit from Dec. 12 to Jan. 14, 2003. Awarding is on Dec. 12.

Entry forms are available at the CCP Visual Arts Office, the NCCA, Fine Arts schools and the PAP Headquarters behind the Folk Arts Theater. Call 526-1044, 890-6984, 645-6780, or e-mail pap_bakat2yahoo.com.

Israeli 'leaf artist' at CCP

THE EMBASSY of Israel and the Cultural Center of the Philippines, together with Janco Dada Museum in Israel and the Philippine High School for the Arts, present an exhibit with the use of an unusual base—dry leaves—by Israeli Ronit Agassi and Filipino Penny Velaso until Dec. 30, at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

Raya Zomer, guest curator of the Janco Dada Museum, will hold a series of lectures on Israeli contemporary arts at the University of the Philippines in Cebu today and in Diliman on Nov. 20.



"THERE'S a bit of Scrooge in all of us," says Williams who plays Scrooge.

Rep's 'Christmas Carol' brings back the horrors—and lessons—of Scrooge

From page F1

Broadway and has become a traditional presentation of sorts for many community theaters in England and the United States. The Repertory production, to be helmed by Zeneida Amador and Baby Barredo, is now running at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall and the RCBC Plaza until Dec. 22.

Like the Philippines

Filipino theatergoers may also find that several elements and issues in Dicken's wintry, industrialized London of the past, are very relevant to the Philippines, which is suffering a severe economic crunch.

Rem Zamora, who plays town spokesperson and Scrooge-hater Tom Jenkins, holds up the seemingly heroic Bob Cratchit (Arnel Carrion) as an example, "He's poor and sick, *marami na siyang anak*, and then he goes out of his way to present this feast just to keep the Christmas spirit alive. The characters in the town are deep in debt and yet, they continue to give credit. Then, [the entire town] has this whole fiesta spirit *na wala ka na ngang pera, uutang ka pa.*"

That habit of perpetual borrowing is the one weakness that keeps the town financially and emotionally hostage to the title character. Michael Williams, who plays Scrooge, describes this relationship: "A lot of people borrow from his lending house. Then he oppresses them by exacting from them [enormous] interest. It's like the five-six *utangan*."

Williams also points out, that given tough situations, we may find a bit of Scrooge inside us. "[The spirit of] Scrooge may not necessarily be a financial thing. These days, you really can't blame people for saving up for the rainy day or the big trouble that they think is looming up ahead."

In fact, from Scrooge's perspective, he may even be the misunderstood victim. While totally unapologetic about his miserliness, he is at least honest about it. He even believes that his attitude is the right one to hold, and is totally clueless why the town, led by Jenkins, loathe him so much. One of the play's most poignant lines reek not so much with bitterness, but agonized bewilderment:

"How shall I ever understand this world? There is nothing on it that is so hard as poverty and there is nothing that it condemns with such severity as the pursuit of wealth."

Three Ghosts

Fortunately, just as Scrooge goes past his 70s, the Three Ghosts—Past (Liesl Batucan, Maritoni Rufino-Tordesillas), Present (Meynard Penalosa) and Future—visit him one lonely Christmas eve to straighten him out.

These nocturnal visits lead to a few flashbacks showing why a personable, likeable, ambitious young man named Ebenezer degenerated into the heartless old Scrooge. They also show the dreary future end if he does not reform his ways.

Williams elaborates on the parts played by the Christmases Past, Present and Future. "The ghosts touch on his issues, his [emotional and historical] baggage. First, he had a bad [impoverished] childhood. Then, he lost a love one and was not resilient enough to outgrow the pain. In his attempt to make [his love] comfortable, he lost his way. The girl leaves him because, as she says, 'You've replaced me with another love'—the pursuit of wealth and material success."

The ghosts also bare in excruciating honesty the actual state of Scrooge's spirit. Zamora describes one bittersweet, funny scene in what is to come, revealed by the skeletal, death-like Christmas Future:

"Jenkins, the voice of the community, rallies the whole town to celebrate when Scrooge dies." Now a spectral spectator, "Scrooge sees the celebration but not the coffin. He doesn't know that they were happy at his death."

Williams concurs, "Christmas Future brings him to the future where he passes away to show him how bad he's gotten. The irony is, he thinks that he's well-loved. It's an ironic, very funny scene that makes a point."

Beyond bank account

This spiritual journey that shows the character's development is critical to the redemption at the climax of the play. Williams, who is also assistant director, points out, "If they didn't resolve all those issues at the end, then the audience won't accept his [transformation] as a heartfelt change. Once the bitterness in his heart was released, then he can become a [better person]. If Scrooge was just a monster, then the audiences won't be moved once he's redeemed."

CARRION, Zamora and Williams

Salvation comes when Scrooge realizes the error of his ways and the age-old wisdom that the more precious things in life go beyond one's bank account.

This Christmas, his discovery may be a timely reminder to audiences accompanying him on the torturous path, from damnation to redemption.

Williams sums it up, "People do confuse their priorities—they work hard and forget they have a life [beyond] that. Or they become embittered by the loss of a loved one or a dream or possession that they really want, and the pain affects how they treat other people. But the whole message of Christmas is really about the spirit of generosity and not just a matter of giving gifts."

"Scrooge—The Musical," runs until Dec. 22. Call 633-4821.

UK's Unlimited Theatre in Philippine tour of 'Static'

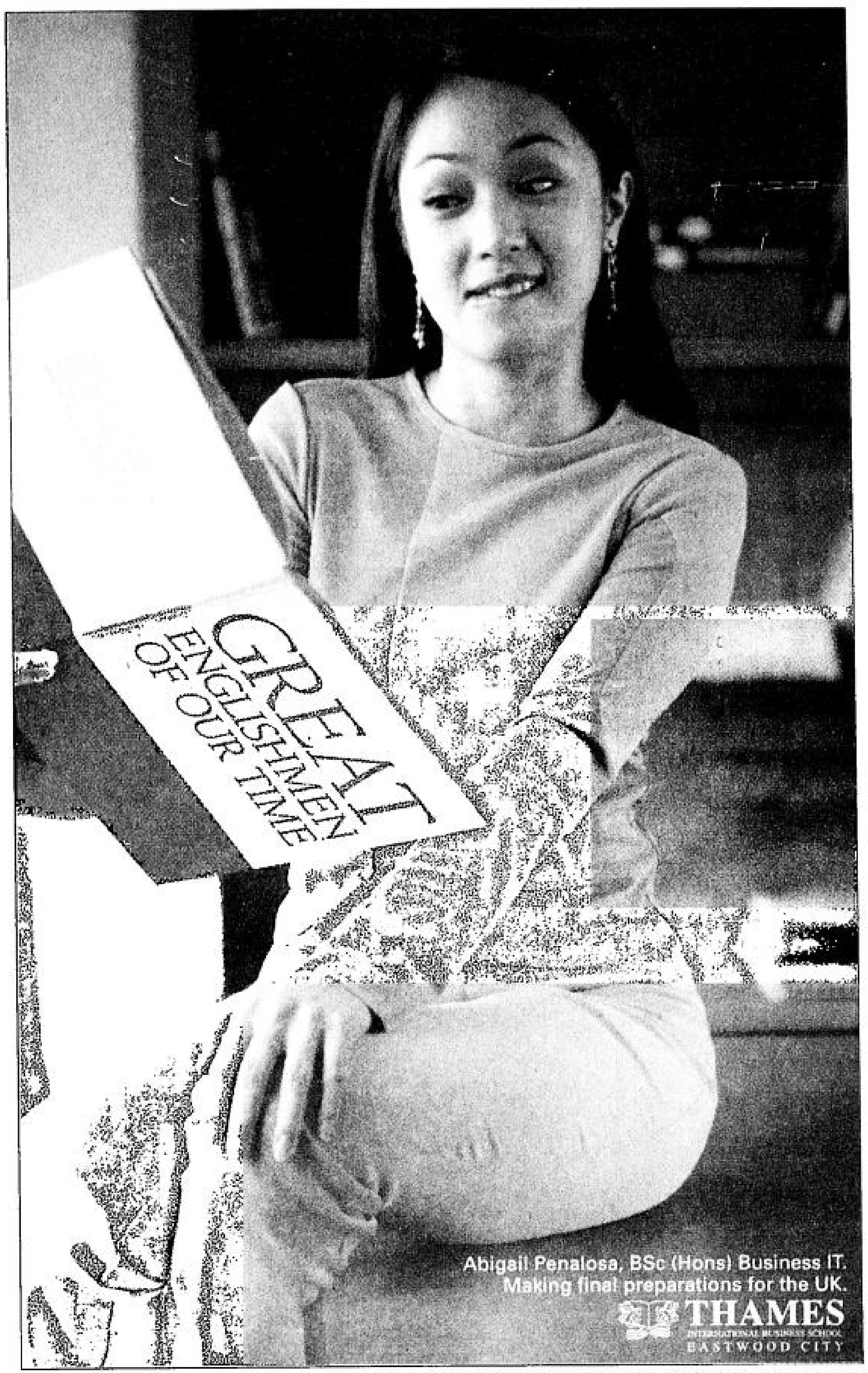
THE BRITISH Council and the Cultural Center of the Philippines proudly present the Philippine tour of Unlimited Theatre's production of "Static" from Nov. 16-25.

"Static" is a two-character play, which earned rave reviews in last year's Edinburgh International Festival. It is a brilliant piece of new writing that serves as a witty and enduring reminder that the blood on TV isn't always makeup. It was written in response to the war in Kosovo in 1999, and is a beautifully acted production that makes audience think long and hard about the role of newscasts and broadcast practitioners.

The group performs at the Baguio Colleges Foundation on Nov. 19, in Bacolod on Nov. 22 and St. Theresa's Academy-Cebu on Nov. 23. Workshops on "Media Responsibility and Alternative Theater" will also be conducted by the actors.

JON Spooner in the London production of "Static"

"Static," written by Chris Thorpe, stars Jon Spooner and Clare Duffy. Call Ahrni Planco at 914-1011 to 14.



Abigail Penalosa, BSc (Hons) Business IT.
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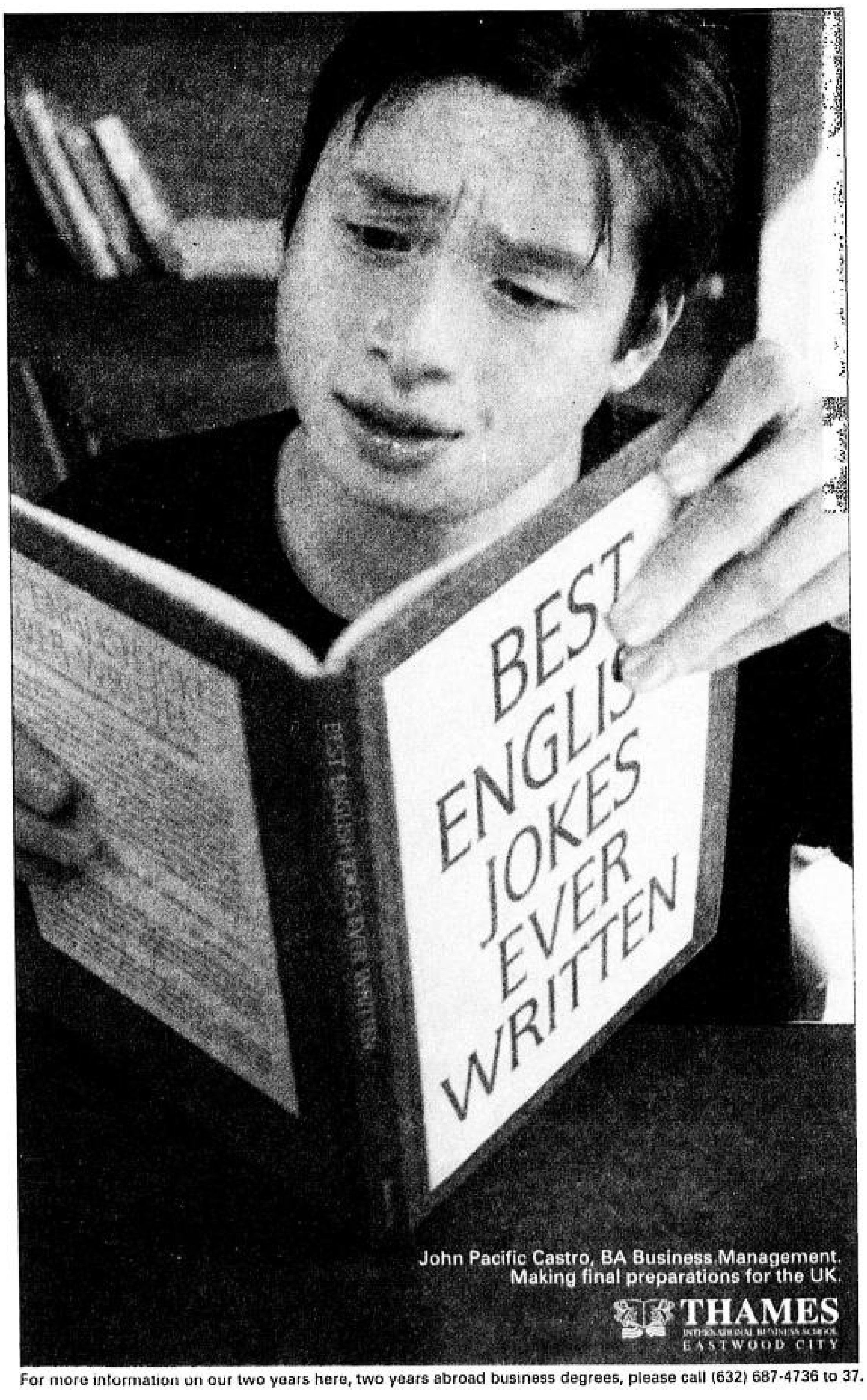

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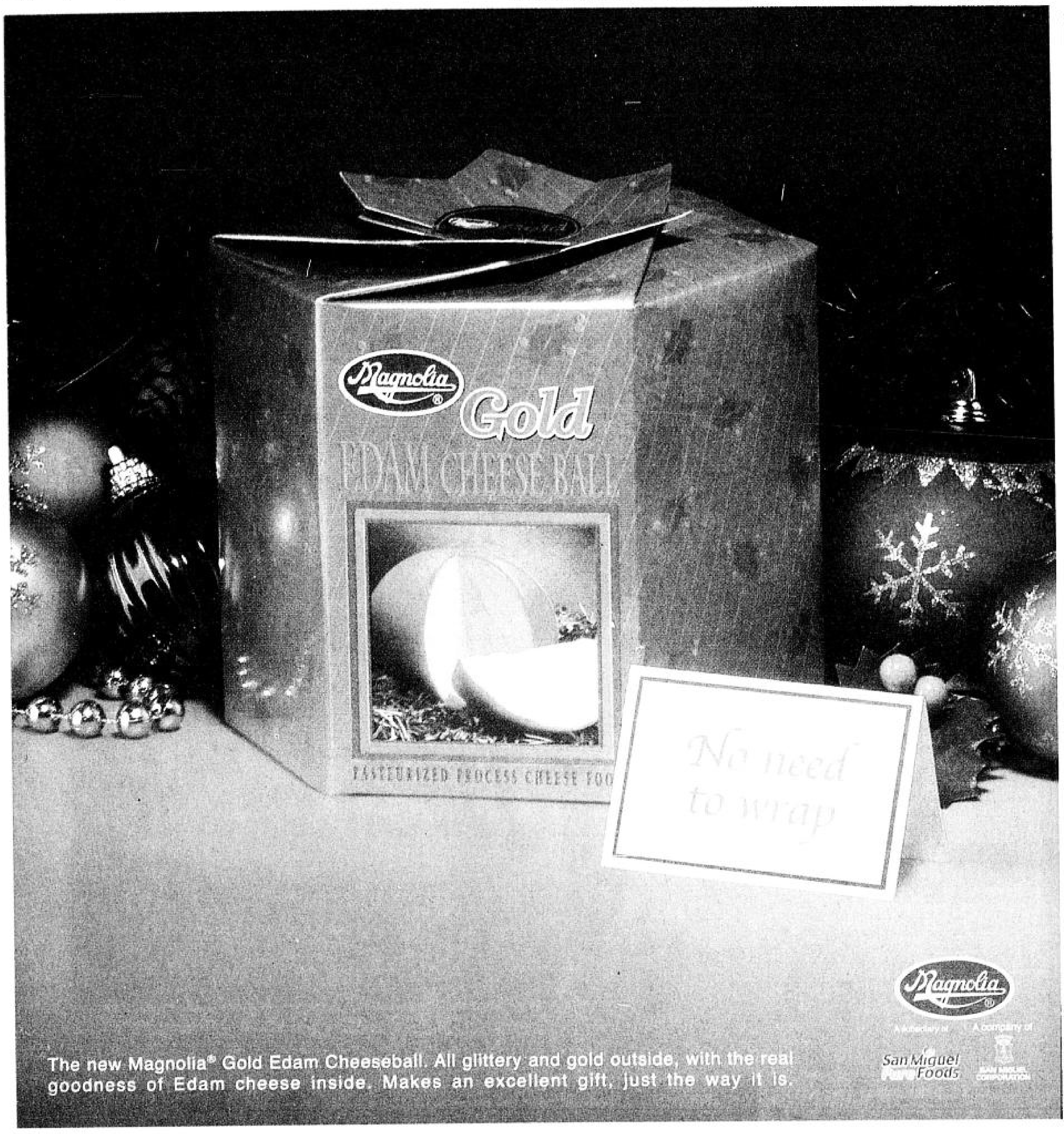

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Claude-Bolling sonata at St. Cecilia's Hall

DELIA Gamboa Besa and Anamaria Gregorio de Guzman will perform Claude-Bolling's "Sonata for Two Pianists" at the St. Cecilia's Concert on Nov. 24, 7 p.m., at St. Cecilia's Concert Hall, St. Scholastica's College.

The concert also features the Predis, a group of young and talented violinists; mezzo-soprano Nanette Espina; and pianists Greg Zuniega and Marianne Fajardo.

SMC executives explore creative arts to enhance corporate dynamics

CORPORATE executives of food and beverage giant San Miguel Corporation were treated to creative calisthenics in "Enhancing Creativity Through Art Appreciation in the Corporate World" at the SMC Corporate Center in Mandaluyong recently.

Giving the executives a pep talk on the creative arts and how they could enhance corporate dynamics were members of the Center for Creative Writing and Studies of the University of Santo Tomas.

Poet-critic Ophelia A.Dimalanta, director of the center, lectured on "Poetry in the Corporate World" and read some of her poems. Top young poet and Tagalog *kundiman* expert Michael Coroza read his poetry and sang. Literature scholar Ferdinand Lopez lectured on the healing power of the arts. SMC executives also recited poems.

The corporate library of San Miguel sponsored the initial venture into cultural enrichment and creativity. More lectures and activities are being planned to foster art appreciation and creative enhancement in a corporate setting.

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LIFESTYLE Books

DANIEL Radcliffe, as Harry Potter, grows before our eyes.

Columbus sails off from the magic

By Ruel S. De Vera

IMAGINE waking up every day for the past few years with Harry Potter riding his Nimbus Two Thousand all around your cerebellum. That's what it's been like for veteran director Chris Columbus who helmed "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer Stone" and its sequel, "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," both based on books by J.K. Rowling. Like a wizard with his own magic wand, Columbus cast a spell on the movies enough to

COLUMBUS/ p.G2

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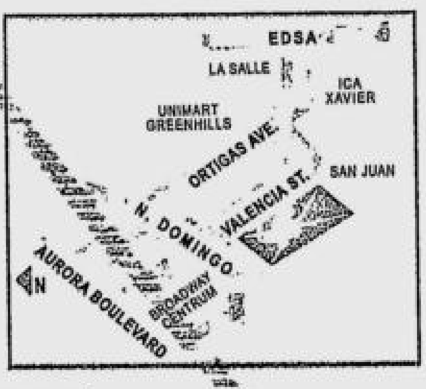

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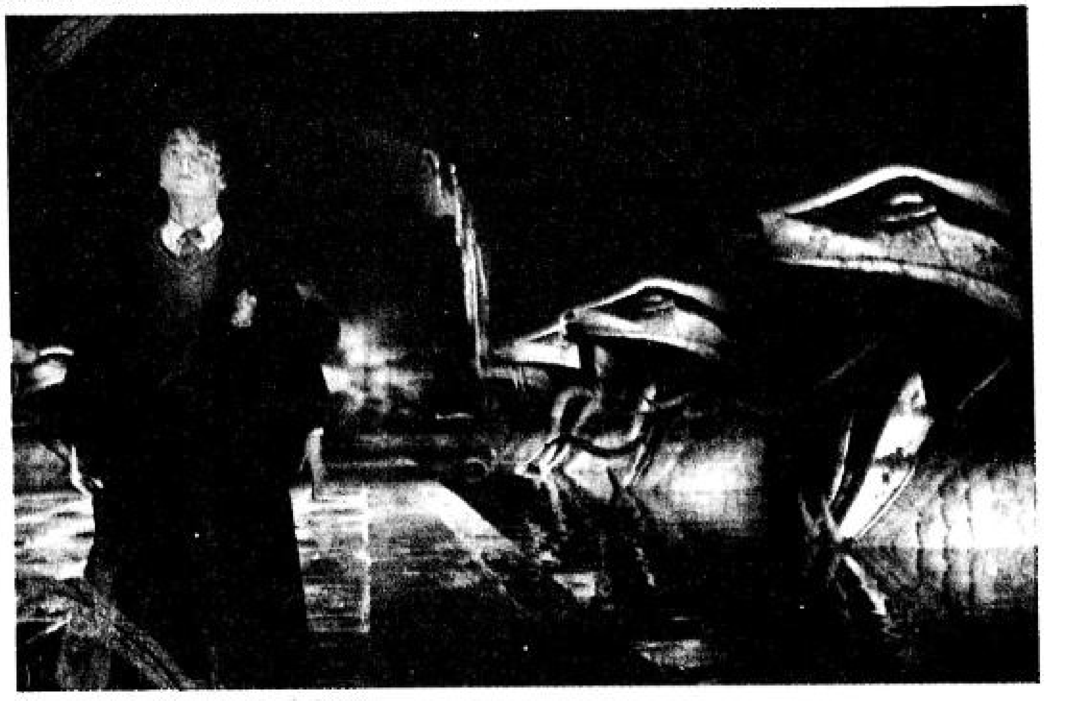
THE MOVIES' three lead characters: Harry, Hermione and Ron

After two magical carpet rides with 'Harry Potter,' director Chris Columbus tells the INQUIRER in a London interview that he is leaving the franchise with a renewed love for books, family and movie-making



HARRY hears the call of the serpent.

Columbus sails off from the magic

From page G1

make them among the most profitable films of all time and turn the trio of Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint and Emma Watson into household names.

Yet, he's now relinquishing the magic wand to "A Little Princess" and "*Y Tu Mama Tambien*" director Alfonso Cuaron. It is anything but an easy decision. "I'm going to miss the relationships I have with the three kids. But the reason I'm leaving is to spend more time with my three kids at home so I have my own kids to be with."

Beyond these personal reasons, the affable Columbus also felt he has used up all his tricks. "In terms of doing another 'Harry Potter' film from a creative standpoint, I don't think I could put anything else into another one. I wanted this one to be my swan song in terms of the 'Harry Potter' films. I wanted it to be as exciting, as dark and I wanted to put as much heart, soul and love into it."

Columbus does know a thing or two about new directions. Best known for having shaped the box-office smashes "Home Alone" and "Home Alone 2: Lost in New York," this New York University alumnus directed movies such as "Stepmom" and "Mrs. Doubtfire." He even wrote, produced and directed "Nine Months." He had written "Gremlins" and "Goonies" for Steven Spielberg.

Interestingly enough, it was Spielberg's passing on the "Harry Potter" offer that led to Columbus taking up the challenge. In so doing, Columbus has stamped his distinctive touch on what may be a series for the ages—and his best work ever for all ages.

Columbus said he felt much more relaxed making "Chamber of Secrets" than he did when he worked on "Sorcerer's Stone." "I felt a little more liberated because we have the trust of Jo Rowling, Warner Bros. and the fans and so they knew we weren't going to put nipples on the bat-suit so to speak and ruin it for them."

Additionally, he didn't let the success of the first movie get in the way. "At the time we were making the second film, I realized we were free to do more improvisation and expand action sequences. If you feel too much pressure, you'll be paralyzed. Great success can paralyze filmmakers as well. Jim Cameron hasn't made a film since 'Titanic' and I don't think that's a good thing either. You have to deal with pressure and not think about it too much."

Much improved

He notes that Radcliffe, Grint and Watson had much improved during the second shooting. "The kids were just better this time. You have to remember that Emma and Rupert had never filmed before and they spent the first few weeks in awe of the fact that 150 people were pointing these cameras at them. We used to do eight or nine takes. On this film, it took two or three takes to get what I wanted."

He also wanted to move "Chamber of Secrets" in a completely different direction, painting it in deliberately darker shades. "I felt we succeeded on one level with the first film, but I felt there were a lot of things I wanted to do better in the second film," Columbus says.

"I was hungrier, and I had more energy. I was much more intense with the second film because I wanted to just make a better film from a film-making point of view. I wanted it to be a little faster, a little bit more violent, a little more exciting. I wanted them to be part of the action sequences. I wanted to make sure that the kids were comfortable enough to take it up another level."

He does regret the fact that they had to cut one of his favorite scenes: "Nearly Headless Nick's (John Cleese in a cameo) Deathday Party. It would have been a really elaborate scene, but it just distracted from the story. We really loved that scene and hated cutting it."

In fact, Columbus has a very apt analogy for how he crafted the second film: "Visually, I felt watching the first film was like opening the pages of a storybook. This time, I wanted to take the camera off the tripod a little more, move it around and give it a more action-adventure feel because I felt like it was needed. I feel it's more intense in a good way." He adds quickly that the test audiences, composed mostly of young children, did not find the movie too scary.

COLUMBUS/ p.G3

FROM THE FOUNDATION FOR WORLDWIDE PEOPLE POWER

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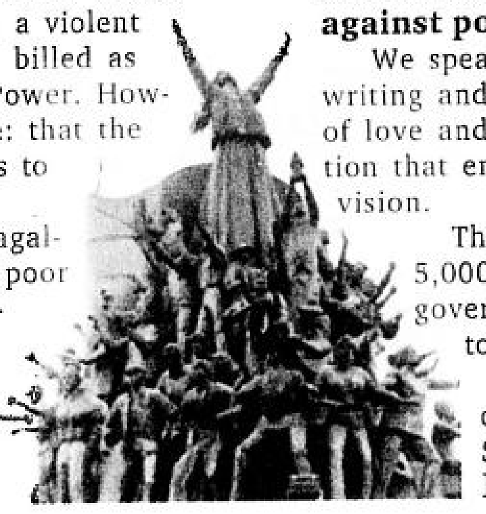

In January 2001 EDSA II resulted in the impeachment and removal of Joseph Estrada as President. Three months later, on May 1, there followed a violent demonstration by his followers. Although billed as EDSA III, it was a corruption of People Power. However, this rebellion sent a strong message: that the plight of the poor of the Philippines needs to be addressed.

One and a half years into the Macapagal-Arroyo government, the problems of the poor remain despite the administration's well-meaning efforts. The FWWPP now feels that the nation urgently needs a new call for People Power. This time, the call is away from politics ... and in the direction of **education**.

The FWWPP is convinced (as our National Hero Jose Rizal himself said) that **education is the best weapon against poverty.**

We speak of education beyond the basic skills of reading, writing and 'rithmetic; education that emphasizes the value of love and concern for family, community, country; education that empowers and breeds citizens of purpose and vision.

There are 35,000 public elementary schools and 5,000 public high schools throughout the country. The government allocates money for them, but not enough to make them as effective as they should be.

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If your group has no SEC Registration, get in touch with the Securities and Exchange Commission at EDSA Mandaluyong City or at any SEC Extension Office near your area.

The newly formed Adoption Group now needs to make a sustainable Action Plan. Here's a step-by-step guide:

Step 1 – Assess the situation

First, ask your school principal for a School Profile. This tells you what the present enrolment is, the condition of the school's physical facilities and the present capabilities of the faculty.

Step 2 – See if the school meets established academic standards

Together with the school principal and the concerned academic personnel, Look into the attendance, grades and diagnostic test scores of the students. Find out if there are enough textbooks and teaching aids. Find out what your group can do to help the children learn their lessons better.

Step 3 - Draft and implement an Action Plan

An Action Plan simply lists the projects you want to undertake for the school in order of importance. Make a timetable for each of the projects. Think of ways to raise funds for these projects.

Please send a copy of your Action Plan together with the Memorandum of Agreement to the FWWPP.

We will endorse your Action Plan to the Department of Education so they can monitor your progress. We will also try to match your projects to a network of Adoption Partners who have joined the Education Revolution so they can give assistance to Adoption Groups like yours.

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The FWWPP can help you develop your Adoption Partner Program. We'll help you in your choice of beneficiary schools and in setting up adequate monitoring mechanisms. We can provide you with a Memorandum of Agreement draft, so you can define the scope and extent of your assistance to the beneficiary school.

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MENTORING THE MENTORS PROGRAM

Mentoring the Mentors Program – conceptualized and developed jointly by the Marie Eugenie Foundation through **Ms. Chinit Delgado Rufino** and the UP College of Education through **Dr. Celia Adriano** and **Dr. Evelyn Mijillano**. *Mentoring the Mentors* is a comprehensive Teacher Training Program that aims to empower teachers as Agents of Change by developing their mentoring skills and opening them to the concept of Education for Social Transformation. A key area of this program is the integration aspect. This is why it is conducted on-site, so that both the program facilitator and the participants fully appreciate the teaching and learning conditions unique to the participants' school. This program's target clientele are Teacher Educational Institutions (TEI) who are involved in educating future teachers and in-service teachers.

This project is ready to be fielded by the FWWPP under the chairmanship of Ms. Chinit Delgado Rufino.

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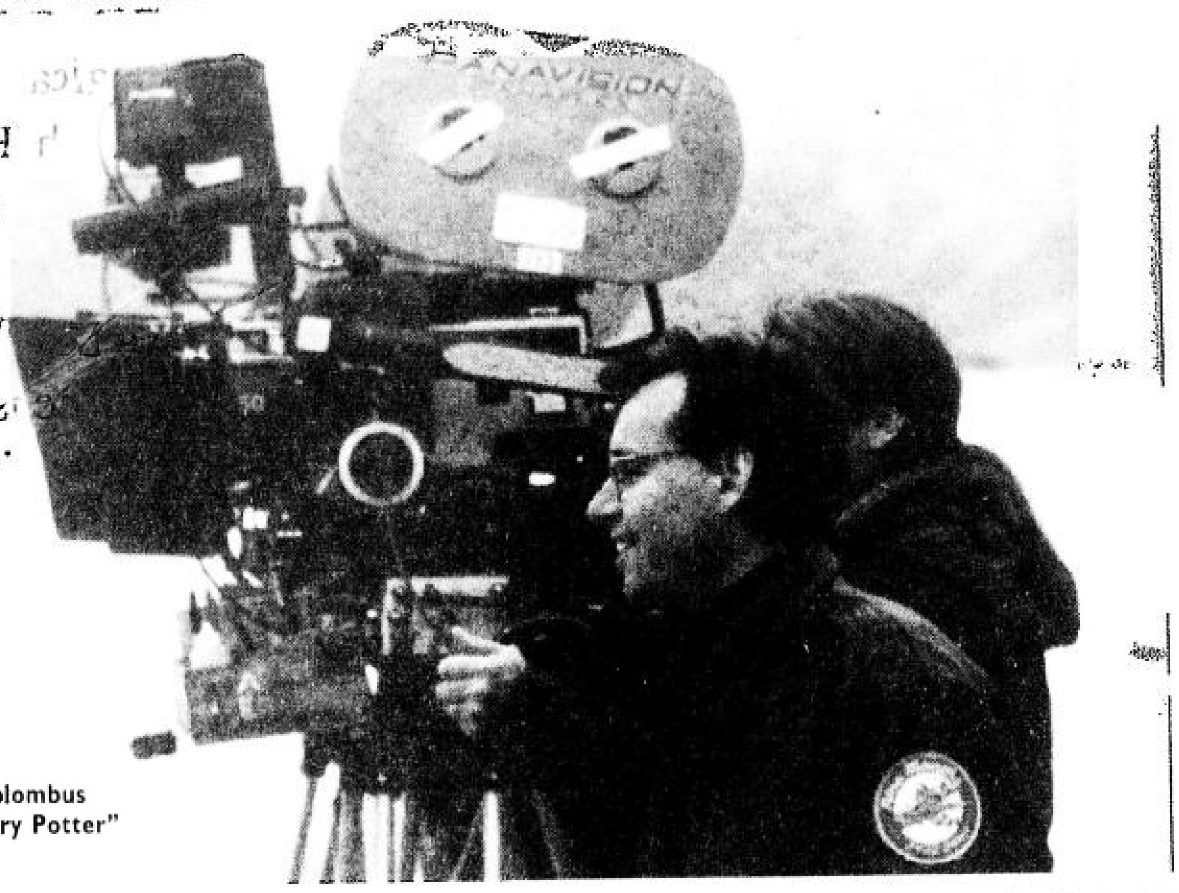
Columbus sails off from the magic



CHRIS Colombus bids "Harry Potter" adieu.

From page G2

Yet he is also quick to issue a warning. "The key is that if you have children who are seven and under. You need to know your own kids. If they have a fear of spiders or snakes, it might be too intense for them. The PG-13 is there for a reason. People tend to ignore it. You need to do your homework as a parent." Columbus did his own homework by bringing his eight-year-old daughter to see it. The verdict: She didn't get nightmares and can't wait to see it again.

> Guess who's taking over from Columbus? Alfonso Cuaron, director of the children's classic 'The Little Princess' and the art-house sex hit 'Y Tu Mama Tu Tambien'

Passing the chair

Now that his turn in the Hogwarts director's chair is done, Columbus will continue to act as executive producer and will still have a hand in overseeing the production. "Making the third film will take a significantly longer time than the first two because Alfonso Cuaron would like to have some more time to get to know the world. I'm producing the films so I have to make sure that the transition between Alfonso and myself is smooth. I want to make sure that the kids are comfortable with him."

He's not worried at all about Cuaron bringing a different vibe to the films. "You can't do a rehash of the earlier films and the third will be different because I'm not directing. I don't think it'll be like what happened with the Batman films where Tim Burton did a good time with the first two and then the third one turned into the 'Starlight Express.' If Harry suddenly broke out into 'Springtime for Hitler,' then I'll be concerned."

He describes how impressed everyone has been with Cuaron. "We loved 'A Little Princess.' I think he's the right guy to do it. He's been working on the movie for a while now and I think his work on it is fantastic."

When asked whether or not the three young stars could become too old to play the parts of Harry, Ron and Hermione, Columbus simply answers, "They may be too old someday. I know that Dan Radcliffe can't wait to get to the set every day so he may never want to stop, but I always think there's a point when you have to say to yourself that, as a child, I may want to go off and live as a normal child for a while."

Aside from missing his young charges, Columbus says he loved working with the late Richard Harris, who died from Hodgkin's Disease shortly after the movie wrapped. "I visited him in the hospital," Columbus says of Harris, who had actually signed up to reprise his role as Albus Dumbledore in the third film. "And he said he'd kill me if I recast him."

Columbus has loved working with Rowling, adding that the author doesn't look over their shoulders and has been a very generous and trusting collaborator. He gets quite firm when it comes to speculation that Rowling is having trouble working on the fifth book in the Hogwarts series, which had been delayed for more than a year now. "I don't think there's any problem. I keep telling people to please get off her back. You can't write a great book on a deadline. She's got the plots worked out and she knows where they're going but it's a little different than hack writing. For a fan, which I am, each book exists as a wonderful novel on its own. These books are going to be around forever, so why rush it. Writing is a different process from making a book."

Artistically liberating

Though he has always admitted being in England has been hard because it takes him away from his family for extended periods of time, Columbus just relishes the entire process of working in England. "This is the most artistically liberating thing I've done in my life. The best crew, the best sense of humor on the set—I just had the most wonderful time making the films. The British actors are so professional. They don't have any kind of star syndrome. For a while, I was working with so many big stars in Hollywood, you start to get jaded. You ask yourself, 'is this what it's all about,' trying to cater to these people's egos instead of focusing the work on hand. Working with these actors it was all about the work. It has reignited my love for film-making and my love of the process in a major way."

"I never lived in Hollywood," Columbus says, as he has lived in New York City and stays in San Francisco when he's not in London. He dreads working with the big stars again. "I don't think I could put up with it." And he remembers more: "When I give Dan Radcliffe a suggestion, he still politely says to me, 'yes, Chris, thank you.' Julia Roberts would never say that to me. She would throw a shoe at me before she'd say that."

So what's next for him aside from spending as much time as he wants with his children? "I have absolutely no idea. I want to sit down and write something. I'm reading some material coming in and I'm reading some novels and screenplays too. I have the time to do that now. It's fantastic. I've been waking up every morning thinking of 'Harry Potter' and that's a good thing. That could go on for the rest of my life. It'll be an interesting day when I wake up and not think of 'Harry Potter,'" Chris Columbus says with genuine feeling. "I don't want to get rid of him. I want him to always be in there."

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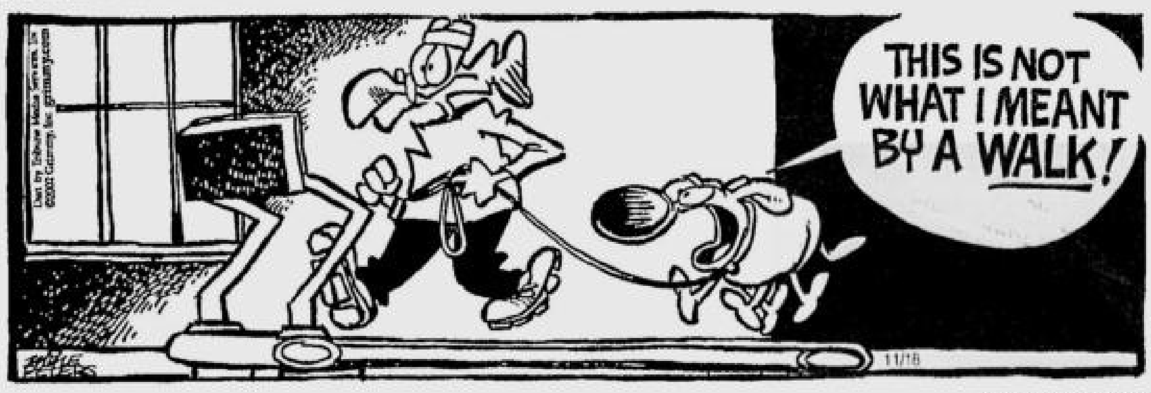
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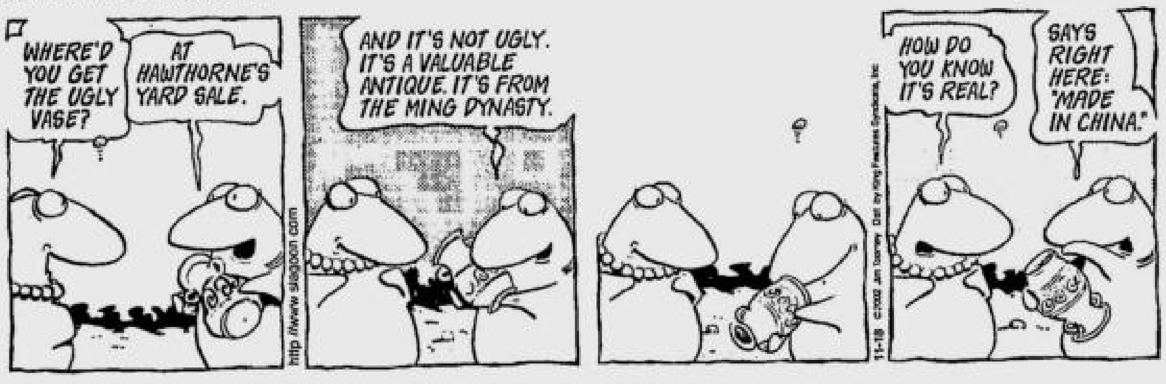
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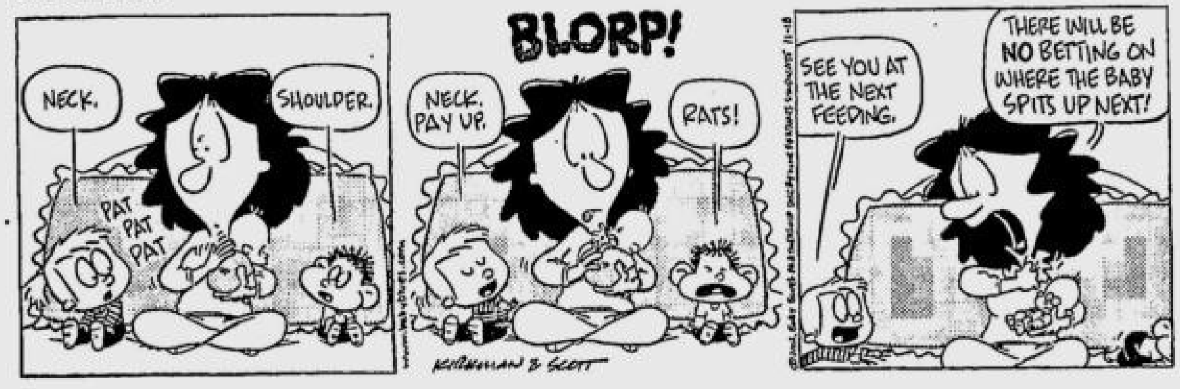
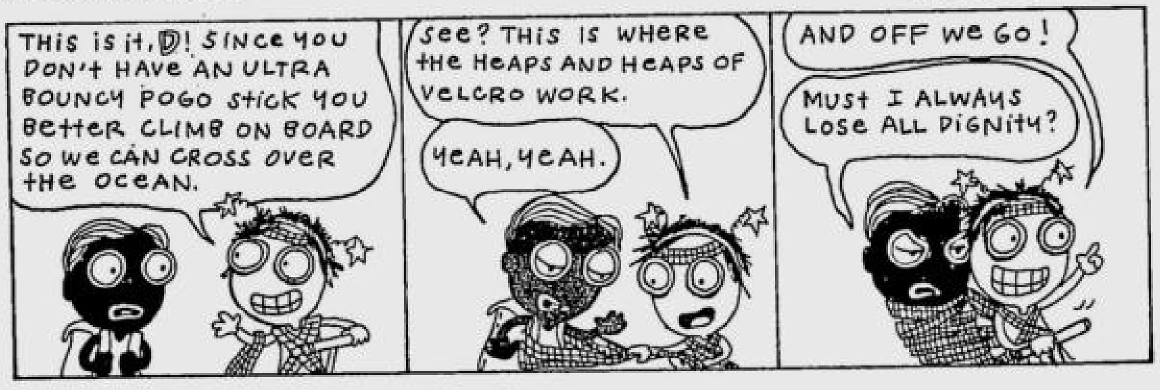
11-18

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


NECK.
SHOULDER.
PAT PAT PAT
BLORP!
NECK. PAY UP.
RATS!
SEE YOU AT THE NEXT FEEDING.
THERE WILL BE NO BETTING ON WHERE THE BABY SPITS UP NEXT!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY BYLYRA GARCELLANO


THIS is it, D! SINCE YOU DON'T HAVE AN ULTRA BOUNCY POGO STICK YOU BETTER CLIMB ON BOARD SO WE CAN CROSS OVER THE OCEAN.
SEE? THIS IS WHERE THE HEAPS AND HEAPS OF VELCRO WORK.
YEAH, YEAH.
AND OFF WE GO!
MUST I ALWAYS LOSE ALL DIGNITY?

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Linda Evans, Elizabeth Perkins, Kevin Nealon, Brenda Vaccaro

Happy Birthday: Don't be afraid to make a leap of faith. If you are reluctant to try new things, you aren't likely to discover the possibilities that lie ahead. You have some great ideas, charm and common sense, so prepare to be a leader, not a follower. Your numbers are 9, 12, 18, 27, 34, 38

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You're subject to fevers and minor infections, so relax and give your body a break. Reevaluate your present situation and rearrange your lifestyle to accommodate your needs.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Problems with in-laws or relatives will test your patience. Try not to retaliate in such a way that you will regret it. Diplomacy is the key.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Involvement in joint matters or financial contracts will be to your disadvantage. Read the fine print and get some legal advice before you sign anything.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your mate may be erratic and uncertain about his or her direction. You may want to do your own thing and give him or her some space to figure things out.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): This is not the best time to voice your opinion at work or partake in conversations that may put your reputation on the line. Travel or reading that relates to business is your best bet.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): This is a great day to make that change you've been thinking about. Be fearless. Your attention should be focused on finishing creative projects or meeting new people through social events.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The changes going on around you may be somewhat unnerving. Try to remain calm and think things through. Be careful not to upset your partner or make waves in your domestic scene.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't let your emotions interfere with your professional duties. If you take a disciplined approach, much can be accomplished, and advancement and financial gain will follow.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Career changes may be on your mind. Don't hesitate to take advantage of the opportunities that evolve. Your talents will not go unnoticed. Showcase your abilities.

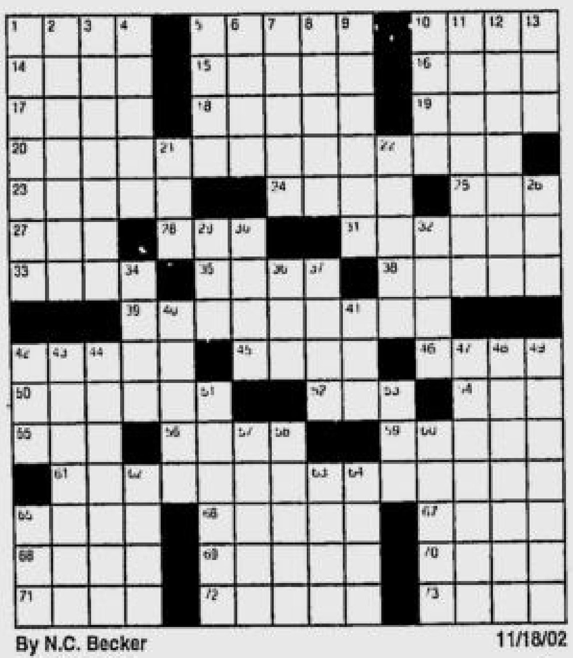
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your hectic schedule may be upsetting to those you live with. Try to spend a little time reassuring those you love. Let them know what you are doing. Your insight into business trends will be uncanny.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Secret affairs could lead to scandal. Be cautious when talking to friends or relatives; you are subject to divulging information that may lead to your demise. Don't tell anyone about your personal secrets.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Someone will mislead you. Listen carefully. Do not take on too much or make unreasonable promises. Think before you act. This is a time to take care of yourself.

Birthday Baby: You will have courage, fortitude and the wherewithal to reach your chosen goals. You will show great determination throughout your life. You will be strong-willed and honest.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By N.C. Becker
Leesburg, GA

11/18/02

ACROSS
1 Small boys
5 Treaties
10 Slanted type: abbr.
14 One of HOMES
15 In progress
16 "Cavalleria Rusticana" lady
17 Harangue
18 Threefold
19 Crackle and Pop's partner
20 Start of a quote
23 Studio stand
24 Fly single
25 Annex
27 Haggard novel
28 Encountered
31 Slowly, in music
33 Chinese secret society
35 Contributed
38 Make scholarly corrections
39 Quoted president
42 Vast expanse
45 "Annie Get Your Gun" co-star
46 Crystal gazer
50 Layout of a publication
52 Hit the slopes
54 Healthy retreat
55 Distant
56 Smidgen
59 Peaceful protest
61 End of the quote
65 Kett of old comics
66 University of Maine town
67 Mr. Knievel
68 Kate or Tim
69 Nut cake
70 Lion's locks
71 Mil. assistants
72 "The Maltese Falcon" co-star
73 Coaster with runners

DOWN
1 Most concise
2 Plains tribe
3 "Out of Africa" author
4 Bristles
5 Butter servings
6 Frizzy do
7 Hairdos
8 Scout's rider
9 Stanley Kowalski's cry
10 Ingrid in "Casablanca"
11 Cargo weight
12 Magic-lamp man
13 Drink like a cat
21 Dutch carrier: abbr.
22 Alpine warble
26 Pentagon grp.
29 Self
30 Tedious undertaking
32 Quantities: abbr.
34 Metric unit
36 Two-finger sign
37 Nights before
40 Broadcasting
41 Wapiti
42 __ and running
43 Worked in concert
44 Hit-or-miss
47 Of summer
48 Effeminate
49 Irritated
51 Camry maker
53 NASA outpost
57 Edible tubers
58 Cancel, NASA-style
60 Account entries
62 Absorbed-dose units
63 Division word
64 Movie or party follower
65 Historic period

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

O	G	L	E	R	■	M	O	O	G	■	A	L	I	S
A	L	A	M	O	G	O	R	D	O	■	R	E	N	E
F	O	R	E	C	A	S	T	E	D	■	C	A	T	E
S	P	A	R	K	L	E	S	■	S	L	I	V	E	R
■	■	■	S	E	A	S	■	K	E	E	N	E	R	S
I	C	H	O	R	S	■	S	E	N	E	G	A	L	■
M	O	O	N	Y	■	L	A	N	D	S	■	L	O	T
P	L	U	S	■	M	O	L	T	S	■	P	O	P	E
S	O	Y	■	O	A	T	E	S	■	P	A	N	E	D
■	R	H	O	D	I	U	M	■	R	U	L	E	R	S
L	A	N	D	O	N	S	■	T	E	R	M	■	■	■
O	T	H	E	R	S	■	P	A	T	I	E	N	T	S
G	U	N	S	■	T	H	E	B	A	T	T	E	R	Y
A	R	M	S	■	A	B	R	O	G	A	T	I	O	N
N	A	S	A	■	Y	O	K	O	■	N	O	L	T	E

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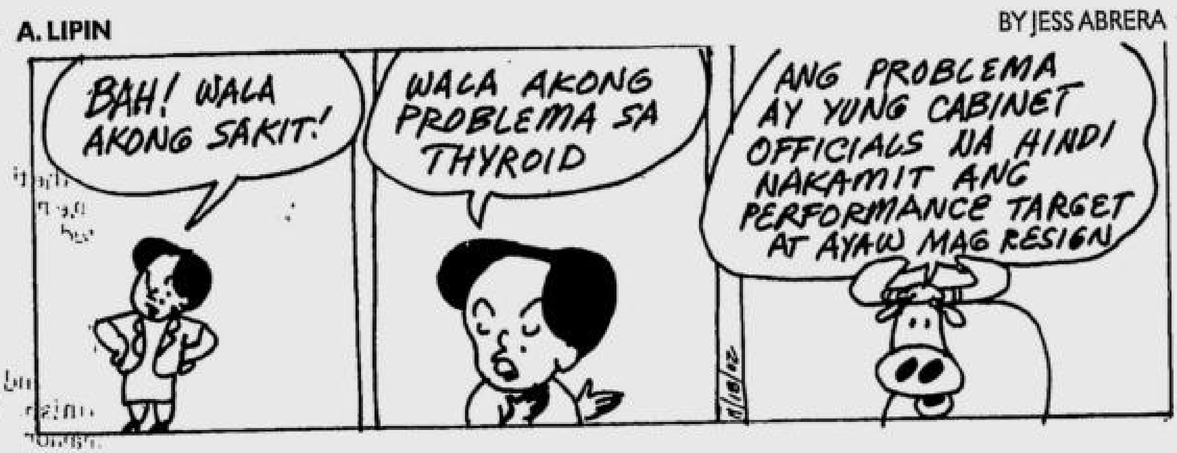
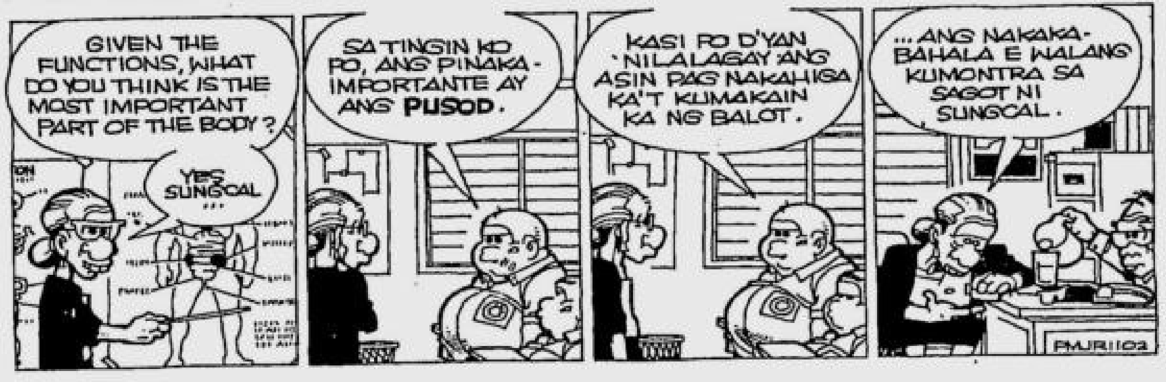
11/18/02

Stumped? Call 900-656-8900. 99 cents a minute

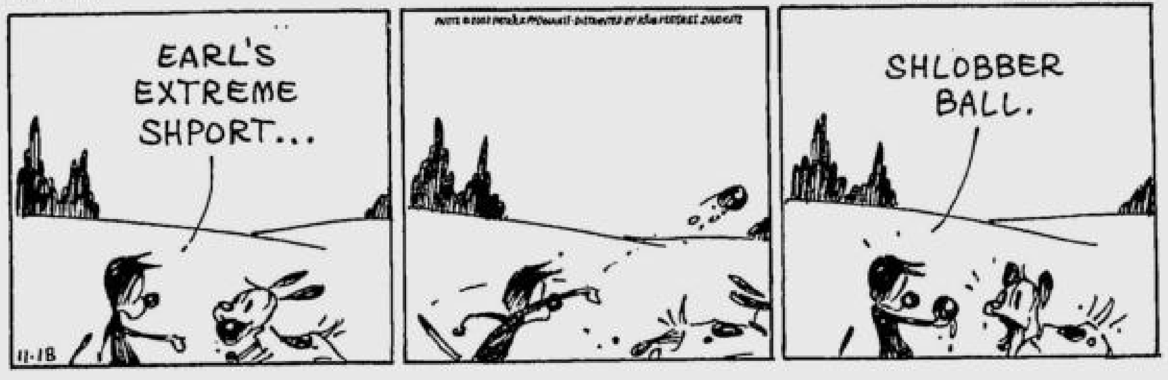
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


BAH! WALA AKONG SAKIT!
WALA AKONG PROBLEMA SA THYROID
ANG PROBLEMA AY YUNG CABINET OFFICIALS NA HINDI NAKAMIT ANG PERFORMANCE TARGET AT AYAW MAG RESIGN

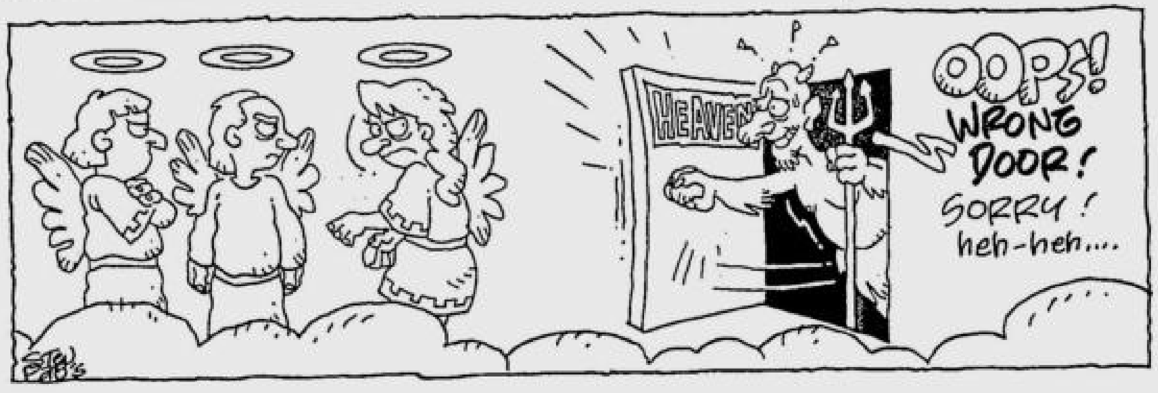
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


GIVEN THE FUNCTIONS, WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE BODY?
YES SUNGCAL...
SA TINGIN KO PO, ANG PINAKA-IMPORTANTE AY ANG PUSOD.
KASI PO D'YAN NILALAGAY ANG ASIN PAG NAKAHIGA KA'T KUMAKAIN KA NG BALOT.
...ANG NAKAKA-BAHALA E WALANG KUMONTRA SA SAGOT NI SUNGCAL.
PMJR11 02

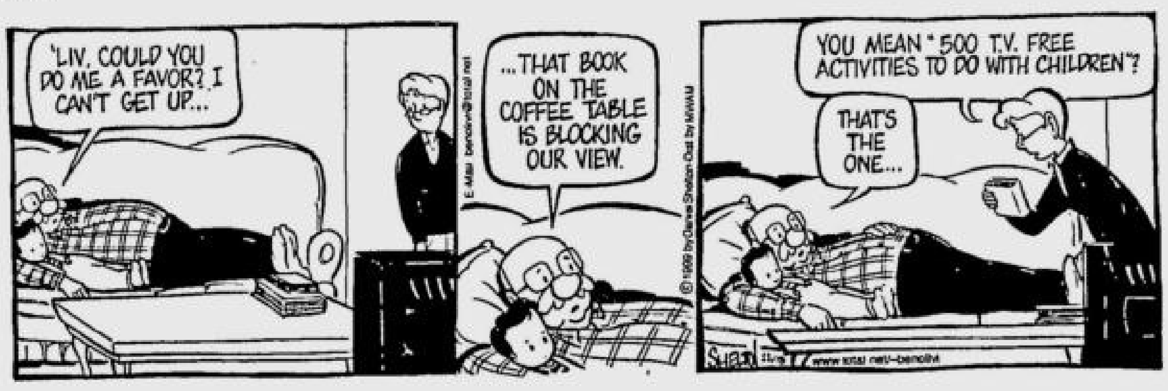
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


EARL'S EXTREME SHPORT...
SHLOBBER BALL.
11-18

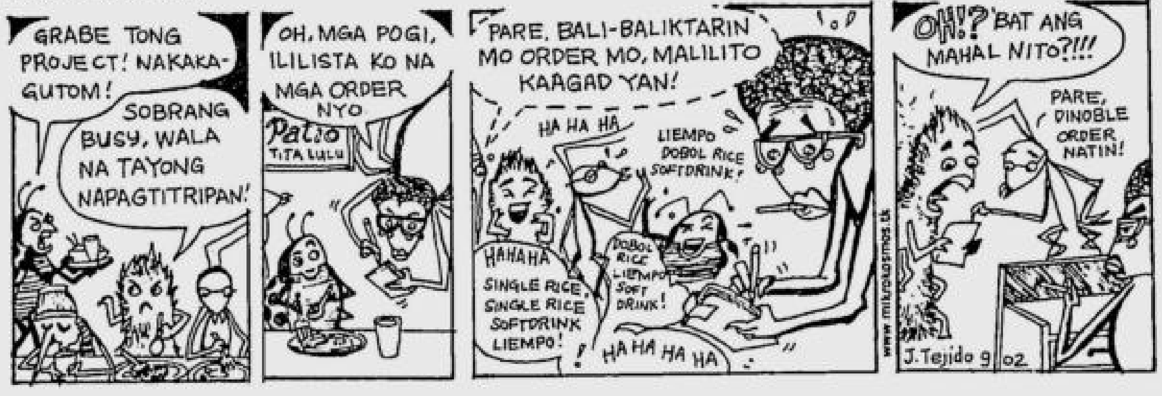
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


HEAVEN
OOPS! WRONG DOOR! SORRY! heh-heh....

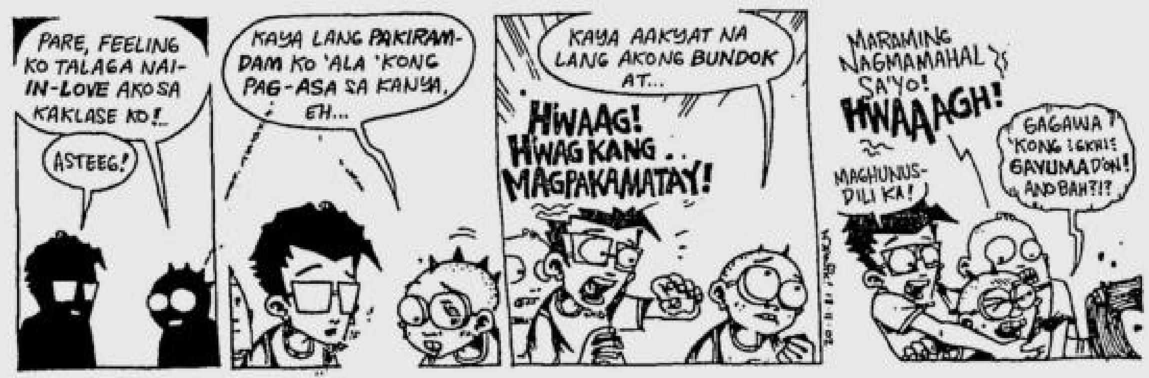
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


'LIV, COULD YOU DO ME A FAVOR? I CAN'T GET UP...
...THAT BOOK ON THE COFFEE TABLE IS BLOCKING OUR VIEW.
YOU MEAN "500 T.V. FREE ACTIVITIES TO DO WITH CHILDREN"?
THAT'S THE ONE...

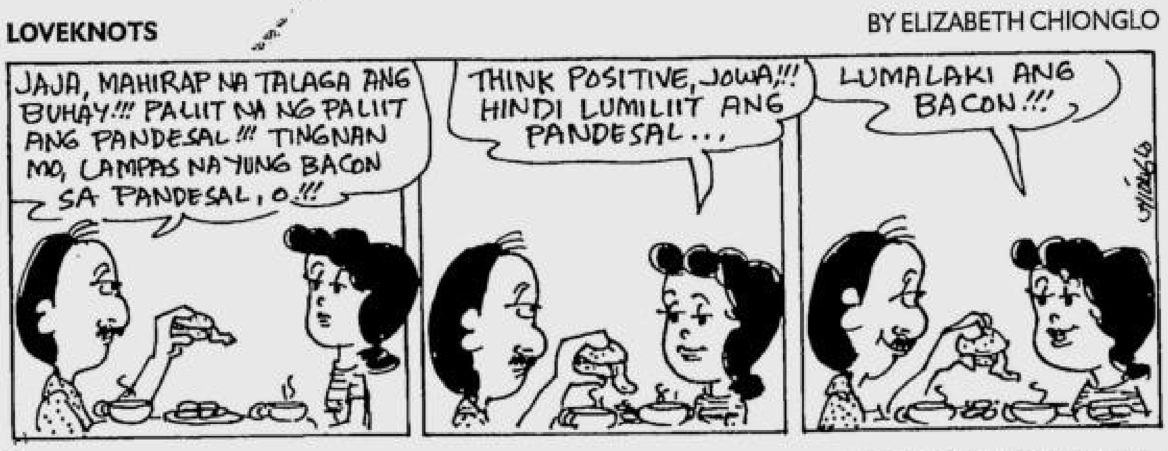
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


GRABE TONG PROJECT! NAKAKA-GUTOM!
SOBRANG BUSY, WALA NA TAYONG NAPAGTITRIPAN!
OH, MGA POGI, ILILISTA KO NA MGA ORDER NYO
Patio TITA LULU
PARE, BALI-BALIKTARIN MO ORDER MO, MALILITO KAAGAD YAN!
HA HA HA
LIEMPO DOBOL RICE SOFTDRINK!
HAHAHA
SINGLE RICE, SINGLE RICE SOFTDRINK LIEMPO!
DOBOL RICE LIEMPO SOFT DRINK!
HA HA HA HA
OH!? BAT ANG MAHAL NITO?!!!
PARE, DINOBLE ORDER NATIN!
www.mikrokosmos.tk
J. Tejido 9 02

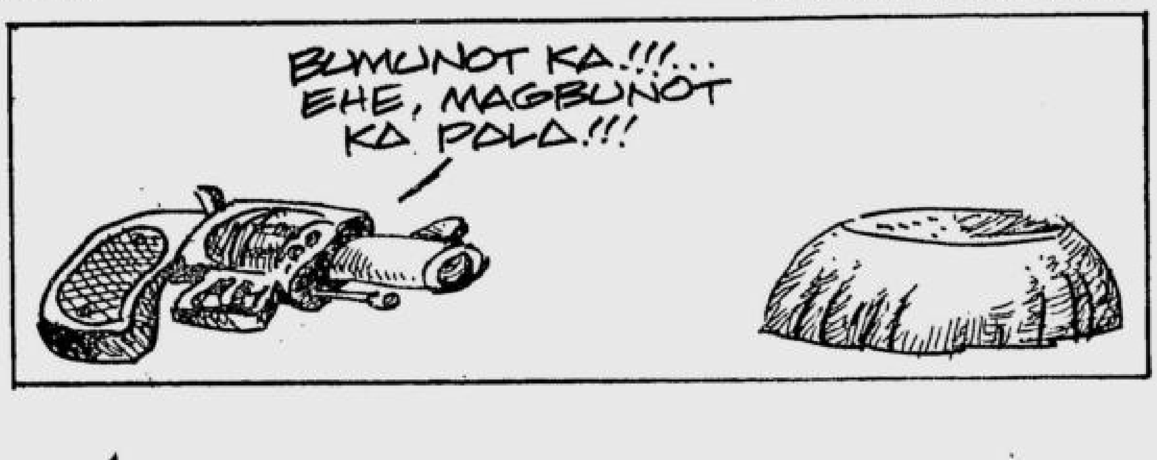
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


PARE, FEELING KO TALAGA NAI-IN-LOVE AKO SA KAKLASE KO!
ASTEEG!
KAYA LANG PAKIRAM-DAM KO 'ALA 'KONG PAG-ASA SA KANYA, EH...
KAYA AAKYAT NA LANG AKONG BUNDOK AT...
HWAAG! HWAG KANG.. MAGPAKAMATAY!
MARAMING NAGMAMAHAL SA'YO!
HWAAAGH!
MAGHUNUS-DILI KA!
GAGAWA 'KONG LEKRIS GAYUMA D'ON! ANO BAH?!?

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JAJA, MAHIRAP NA TALAGA ANG BUHAY!!! PALIIT NA NG PALIIT ANG PANDESAL!!! TINGNAN MO, LAMPAS NA YUNG BACON SA PANDESAL, O!!!
THINK POSITIVE, JOWA!!! HINDI LUMILIIT ANG PANDESAL...,
LUMALAKI ANG BACON!!!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BUMUNOT KA!!!... EHE, MAGBUNOT KA PALA!!!

When in Paris, loiter

By James P. Ong
Contributor

"The Flâneur: A Stroll through the Paradoxes of Paris"
By Edmund White
(Bloomsbury Publishing, 2001; 211 pages)

"Our Paris: Sketches from Memory"
By Edmund White and Hubert Sorin (illustrator)
(HarperCollins, 2002; 122 pages)

REVIEWS

IT is said that it takes an outsider to see the beauty of one's own city. While the French capital has never been lacking in oohlalas from its many admirers—residents, immigrants, tourists, even armchair travelers—this deeply personal book by celebrated American author Edmund White goes off the beaten track of Eiffel Tower, the Louvre and Notre Dame and takes us, not exactly on a tour of the armpits of Paris, but more like her erogenous zones.

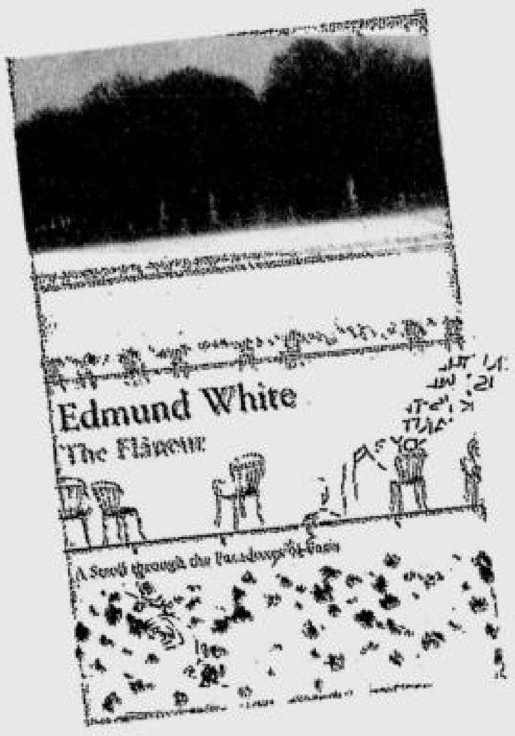
"The Flâneur" is the first book in the "The Writer and the City" series of London-based Bloomsbury Publishing. The two other books in the series, penned by different writers, are about Sydney and Florence.

White lived in Paris for almost 10 years, enough time for him to have earned the right to talk sentimentally—but still opinionatedly—about its backstreets, history and population.

'Royalist' bar

A flâneur is, for lack of a better word, a loiterer. He walks aimlessly around the city streets with no real agenda or itinerary in mind "but is secretly attuned to the history of the place and in covert search of adventure, aesthetic or erotic." White's book is the perfect traveling companion for those willing to throw away their travel guidebooks.

Among the gems that he mentions is a tobacco shop called Bar-Tabac des Templiers, located near the Hotel de Ville on rue Rivoli. At first glance, the store looks ordinary—stacks of cigarettes in one corner, an off-track betting station in another, and a bar full of taxi drivers sipping espressos.


Edmund White
The Flâneur
A Stroll through the Paradoxes of Paris

But take a closer look and you will notice the many Joan of Arc statues, a copy of Louis XVI's last testament tacked on a wall, royal medals and swords on display behind a locked glass cabinet, and pictures of the royal families and the current Bourbon pretender to the throne—Louis XX.

Apparently, the owner of this tabac is one of 75,000 royalists in Paris—a group clamoring for the return of royal family rule.

"When I called him a monarchist," White writes, "he corrected me and said 'I am a royalist, not a monarchist,' though I have yet to grasp the difference."

Small museums

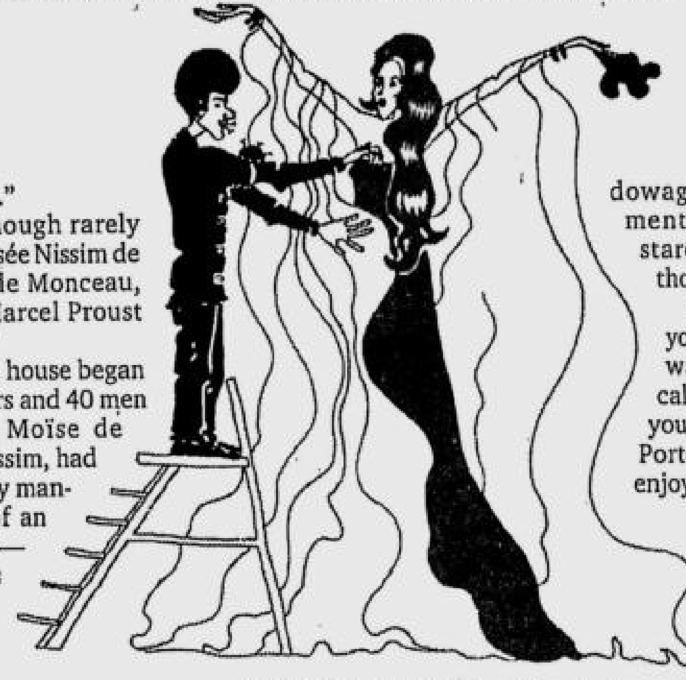
"Paris has countless small and bizarre museums, little corners where someone's bid for immortality goes unnoticed," writes White. Indeed, one is spoilt for choice. There are spaces dedicated to just about anything: perfumes, locksmithery, Madame Curie, dermatology, even public welfare.

The Baccarat crystal museum, in 30 bis rue de Paradis in the 10th arrondisement, should be visited in the spring "just at closing time when night is beginning to fall and the crystals are glowing dimly in the last shreds of daylight."

At 380 rue St. Honore is the museum of eyeglasses (Musée de Lunettes et Lorgnettes), which has 3,000 spectacles on display, including "a gilded cane with a little telescope inside from the time of Louis XV."

The most touching, though rarely visited, museum is the Musée Nissim de Camamondo on 63 rue de Monceau, the same street where Marcel Proust grew up.

The construction of the house began in 1911 and took four years and 40 men to finish. The owner, Moïse de Camamondo, father of Nissim, had torn down the 1866 family mansion to build a replica of an 18th century townhouse—"the ideal setting for his outstanding collection of furniture from the reigns of Louis XV and Louis XVI."



A SKETCH by Sorin of the Tunisian designer Alaïa with the then "shy English adolescent" Naomi Campbell

However, the entire Camamondo family, once referred to as "the Rothschilds of the East," was wiped out by the Holocaust.

Fortunately, Moïse left behind instructions that every object must remain where it was when he was living in the house. As a result, it now feels like stepping back in time.

The most interesting room—and one that captures the opulence and refined taste of the Camamondos—is devoted to nothing but over a thousand dishes, cups and plates all handmade at Sevrés in the 1780s. They are decorated with the many different birds featured in a book by the naturalist Buffon. No one design is repeated.

Cruising

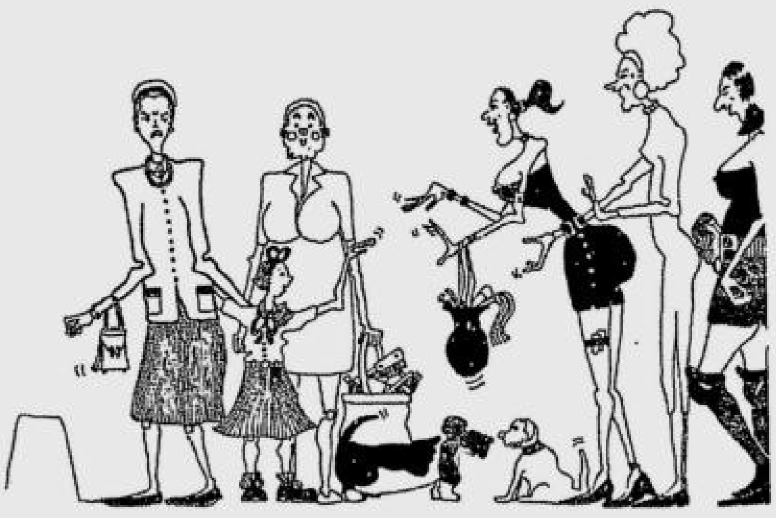
Where Amsterdam is known for its liberal stance on drugs and prostitution, Paris is a honeymooners' paradise for fitting their idea of a romantic city. And yet, it's not just love that's in the Parisian air—there's also its barbaric cousin: sex.

"Whereas the word cruise is part of only the gay vocabulary in English," says White, "its French equivalent, drageur, is also heterosexual. Straight people cruise one another in Paris."

To illustrate his point, White cites the artist Pablo Picasso—who met his second wife Fernande upon following the advice of the Surrealists "to cruise the boulevards near the opera house, the Palais Garnier, and befriend the first woman who took his eye."

A major restaurant on Boulevard Montparnasse is where "elderly ladies sent drinks to young gigolos, who then asked them to dance. During a spin across the basement floor some interesting arrangements could be worked out; my friend went home with one dowager and cleaned her apartment wearing nothing but a starched apron—and earned a thousand francs."

There is also a place where you can swap your wife if you want to, "indoors, in a club called Chris and Manu's, or in your own car outdoors nears the Porte Dauphine (where you can enjoy the additional thrill of exhibitionism, since male voyeurs lurk around the parked and locked automobiles and stare into the steamed-over windows)."



ON rue des Lombards, below White's study, were eight very old matronly prostitutes, who worked in shifts.

Sketches

If "The Flâneur" is more about the sights of the City of Lights, its precursor, "Our Paris: Sketches from Memory", is about the sounds—and the faces the writer met during his stay there.

First published in 1994, it was reprinted by HarperCollins last May.

Here, White collaborates with his now-deceased lover, Hubert Sorin, who made drawings of "their favorite people and places in and around their neighborhood" in Chatelet, inhabited not just by the literati and fashionistas, but also "by poetic shopkeepers, grandmotherly prostitutes."

One of their neighbors there was the great couturier from Tunisia, Azzedine Alaïa, where White recalls first seeing "a ravishing, pouting, smiling teenager, Naomi Campbell... who then was just a sumptuously beautiful shy English adolescent."

WHEN/ p.G6

Eat, drink then take off.
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- Only death by accident is covered before the second anniversary of the policy.

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Coverage	Death by Illness	Accidental Death	Death by Illness	Accidental Death	Death by Illness	Accidental Death	Death by Illness	Accidental Death	Death by Illness	Accidental Death	Death by Illness	Accidental Death	Death by Illness	Accidental Death
Sum Insured	P159,411	P637,644	P120,452	P481,808	P91,414	P365,656	P68,950	P172,375	P50,421	P126,053	P36,314	P90,785	P25,541	P63,853

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Historian De la Rosa to deliver Jose Villa Panganiban-Varsitarian professorial chair lecture in UST

FATHER De la Rosa

NOTED Church historian and leading Catholic educator Fr. Rolando V. de la Rosa, O.P., will deliver the first Jose Villa Panganiban-Varsitarian Professorial Chair Lecture in Journalism on Nov. 21, 3 p.m., at the Thomas Aquinas Research Complex (TARC) Auditorium of the University of Santo Tomas.

The lecture kicks off the 75th founding anniversary celebration of the Varsitarian.

Father De la Rosa was rector magnificus and president of UST from 1990-1998. He has won the National Book Award in History for his seminal work, "History of the Religious Orders in the Philippines: Beginnings of the Filipino Dominicans," key chapters of which have been published in learned journals in Europe. He has received the Catholic Authors Award and other honors for his writings and educational leadership. He writes a weekly editorial page column at the Manila Bulletin.

De la Rosa was Witness (Religion) editor of The Varsitarian in 1978-1979. He is expected to talk about the applications of criteria of truth drawn from Thomistic philosophy in the work of the press. At present, he is provincial councilor of the Dominican Province of the Philippines.

The professorial chair is named after Jose Villa Panganiban (1903-1972), who conceived of the Varsitarian as a working student in the 1920s and is generally considered the founder of the paper. Panganiban was a reporter, radio commentator, linguist, lexicographer, translator, writer, educator and scholar. He became the director of the Institute of National Language and the author of the seminal Diksyunaryo Tesauro Ingles-Pilipino, the first solid work on the intellectualization and standardization of the Filipino language.

Alumni staffers of the Varsitarian include Manila Mayor Arsenio Lacson, Manila Archbishop Artemio Casas, Sorsogon Gov. Juan Frivaldo, Sen. Francisco Tatad, Ramon Magsaysay laureate Bienvenido Lumbera, Sister Delia Coronel, and National Artists F. Sionil Jose, Daisy Hontiveros-Avellana, and J. Elizalde Navarro.

Other alumni include Jullie Yap Daza, Rina Jimenez, Neal Cruz, Jose Guevarra, Teodoro Valencia, Jess Sison, Paz Latorena, Wilfrido Nolledo, Norma Miraflor, Rita Gaddi-Balthazar, Federico Licsi Espino, Cirilo Bautista, Albert Casuga, Paulino Lim, Rogelio Sicat, Eric Gamalinda and Antonio Lopez.

After the lecture, a poster and interactive exhibit on the history of the Varsitarian will open at the TARC lobby.

The lecture is open to the public, call 731-3101 loc. 8235.

When in Paris, loiter

From page G5

In one dinner, there was Alaïa and the painter Julian Schnabel, who "are best friends, although curiously neither can speak the other's language." He asked the two how they met and he heard conflicting stories.

Schnabel: "I... offered to exchange one of my paintings for a fur coat (for my wife). He was overwhelmed, since obviously one of my paintings is worth twenty fur coats, but he gratefully accepted."

Alaïa: "This man came to my shop and I'm so embarrassed to say but I'd never heard of him and when he offered me one of the paintings I just shrugged, but Jacqueline (Schnabel) was so beautiful I thought I'd love to have her wearing my coat in New York so I agreed."

Memories, writes White, is free and priceless. They are just waiting for the flâneur to make them his own.

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